



Daily Report

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Japan

'Deep Regret' Over U.S. Whaling Sanctions

OW110601 Tokyo KYODO in English 0550 GMT
11 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 11 KYODO—Japan expressed deep regret Thursday over the imposition of U.S. sanctions for its continuation of research whaling in the Antarctic Ocean.

The Fisheries Agency said it has complied with procedures for research whaling set forth by the International Whaling Commission.

A high-ranking agency official warned that Japan-U.S. relations will sour as a result of the U.S. decision to prohibit Japanese fishing operations in U.S. waters.

In the northern fishing ports of Kushiro and Nemuro in Hokkaido, fisheries cooperative representatives registered shock at the punitive U.S. action.

"All we are asking for from the U.S. is the restoration of a small quota for cod," a cooperative official said.

The sanctions, however, are unlikely to have an immediate impact on Japanese fishermen, who are currently not given any catch quota in U.S. waters. Rather, government sources said, the U.S. move, as announced Wednesday by Commerce Secretary William Verity, will have a psychological effect on overall Japan-U.S. relations already aggravated by the chronic trade imbalance.

Fisheries Agency sources said the U.S. may invoke the Perry Amendment to bar imports of Japanese marine products.

Japanese exports of fishery products to the U.S. totaled an estimated 50 billion yen in the first 11 months of 1987, according to agency statistics.

Officials Deny DPRK Ship Shore Leave

OW101223 Tokyo KYODO in English 0824 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Niigata, Feb. 10 KYODO—The 3,573-ton North Korean cargo-passenger ship "Mangyongbong-ho" left Niigata port for home at noon Wednesday, a day later than its scheduled departure due to stormy weather in the area.

The ship had earlier visited Yokohama, where it arrived February 1, but its crew of 69 were barred from going ashore because of Japan's sanctions against North Korea for its alleged complicity in the destruction of a South Korean airliner last November.

The Japanese sanctions were announced January 26.

During its four-day stay in Niigata port, the ship's captain Pak Won-tae, 44, and his crew applied three times for permission to go ashore, but Japanese immigration authorities rejected their requests.

Niigata Prefectural police sent about 70 officers to the port as a precaution against possible disturbances by rightist activists, but no trouble was reported.

The ship left for the North Korean port of Wonsan carrying 73 Korean residents of Japan as passengers, as well as general cargo.

Another DPRK Ship Arrives

OW100255 Tokyo KYODO in English 0218 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Kobe, Feb. 10 KYODO—A North Korean freighter entered Kobe port Wednesday, the second North Korean ship to visit the country since Japan announced sanctions against North Korea in late January for its alleged involvement in the bombing of a South Korean airliner last November.

On arrival at the port, the 329-ton freighter, "Chungsung-ho," with a crew of 15, was inspected by local Japanese immigration officials but no trouble was reported.

The ship brought about 130 tons of frozen fishery products from Wonsan, North Korea. It will leave for Wonsan on Thursday.

JSP Criticizes Government on Defense, Taxes

OW110825 Tokyo KYODO in English 0734 GMT
11 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 11 KYODO—Japan's top opposition party leader Takako Doi blasted the government of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita at a party convention on Thursday and said it is undermining the confidence of the people in parliamentary democracy.

In a keynote speech on the opening day of its three-day convention, the chairwoman of the Japan Socialist Party (JSP) charged that the ruling Liberal Democratic Party is trying to levy a large-scale indirect tax in defiance of an election campaign promise made in 1986 by Takeshita's predecessor, Yasuhiro Nakasone, that the government would not do so.

Doi, Japan's first woman leader of a major political party, said the government has been increasing defense spending despite the relaxation of international tensions, as evidenced by an accord between the superpowers to eliminate intermediate nuclear forces.

The JSP leader told the 53rd party convention that these policies have caused anxiety among Japan's neighbors, as well as at home, and that the JSP should realize it shoulders part of the responsibility for allowing such policies to exist.

Doi, who became the JSP chairwoman in September 1986, said she would take the lead in the next national election in order to regain seats lost in the previous election.

The JSP adopted a "new declaration" in January 1986 which propounds a West European style of democratic socialism in place of Marxist ideologies.

The JSP suffered a serious setback in the simultaneous elections of the upper and lower houses of the Diet in July 1986. The number of JSP seats was reduced from 112 to 86 in the 512-seat lower house. The next upper house election is due to be held in 1989.

The JSP leader said the party must not allow the government to deviate from the Constitution, and that the bilateral security treaty between Japan and the United States is anti-constitutional.

Doi said the government should abide by Japan's three nonnuclear principles—not possessing, not manufacturing and not introducing nuclear weapons into Japan.

A ban on arms exports and on the overseas deployment of Japan's Self-Defense Forces must also be maintained, the opposition leader said. She warned against yielding to a "limitless military buildup" which "could not deter Japan from being a military power."

The chairwoman called for stronger defense of human rights at home and abroad and for greater participation by women in politics and social activities.

Doi also called for party reform and unity. The party is proposing to revise its rules for the establishment of "cooperative party members" in order to increase its popular support. The JSP's main basis of support is currently labor unions.

JSP Secretary General Tsuruo Yamaguchi told some 1,000 participants in the convention that the party will fight until Takeshita dissolves the Lower House if the government tries to leave a new indirect tax.

The secretary general called for greater solidarity with opposition parties, especially with Komeito, the No. 2 opposition party.

Yamaguchi said the party is preparing to host an international symposium in May this year for nonnuclearization and disarmament in Asia and the Pacific region.

Naohiko Okubo, secretary general of Komeito, urged the JSP to consider policies acceptable to other opposition parties on the Self-Defense Forces, Japan-U.S. security treaty and atomic energy if the JSP intends to form a coalition government.

Okubo was the first Komeito guest to have made a speech at a JSP convention.

Changes Line on Travel to ROK
SK110159 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
11 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] Tokyo (YONHAP)—The Japan Socialist Party has decided to lift a ban on visit to South Korea by its lawmakers, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said Wednesday.

The decision, which was made at a meeting of top party officials including Chairwoman Takako Doi, will be announced at a party convention Thursday, the newspaper said.

The main opposition party has long been under pressure to change its policy toward South Korea which critics said was out of touch with reality.

The JSP does not recognize the South Korean government and maintains relations with Communist North Korea.

But the travel liberalization may not guarantee its lawmakers an entry visa from Seoul because of the JSP's anti-Seoul platforms.

Last year, South Korea rejected visa requests by three reporters of the party newspaper who wanted to cover the December presidential election.

Dairy Farmers Act in Response to GATT Ruling
OW101309 Tokyo KYODO in English 1122 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb.10 KYODO—For the first time in nine years, Japanese milk producers will abolish the production adjustment system in fiscal 1988 in face of farm trade talks with the United States and other exporting countries.

The decision was made Wednesday by a national dairy farming union formed by agricultural cooperatives across the nation.

Milk producers have adjusted their annual output according to the production adjustment system since fiscal 1979.

The decision stemmed from a ruling by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade earlier this month, rejecting Japan's argument that it should be allowed to impose import quotas on processed milk because it has been adjusting production according to the demand-supply situation.

The GATT decision is forcing Japan to negotiate compensation with the United States, Australia and New Zealand for retaining import quotas on certain categories of milk products.

Dairy farmers have also called for a review of the system following growing demand for milk for the past two years.

The exporting countries contend that production adjustments should be aimed only at curbing output, and any production increases program will disadvantage Japan in its negotiations with the exporting countries.

The union set next year's shipment target at 6,729,400 tons, almost unchanged from this year.

Mongolia

Meeting of Asia-Pacific Legislators Urged *OW110828 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1725 GMT 4 Feb 88*

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, February 4 (MONTSAME)—One of the most urgent problems of Asia-Pacific security is the inclusion of this region in the common process of setting up a comprehensive system of international security. In this sense of special significance are broad-scale proposals set forth by M.S. Gorbachev in Vladivostok. The realization of these proposals, other peace initiatives advanced by Asian socialist countries including the Mongolian People's Republic, could become an important step towards strengthening mutual understanding and cooperation among Asian and Pacific countries, Lhagvajabyn Dzantab, deputy chairman of the Executive Committee of the Mongolian parliamentary group, writes in the Russian language paper "NAVOSTI MONGOLIA".

From our meetings with parliamentarians of other countries, we can see, L. Dzantab notes, that the public is seriously alarmed by the threat looming large over the region. Now, real conditions are emerging for a dialogue, above all, between parliamentarians of states with differing social systems. That is why at the first consultative meeting of parliamentary groups of Asian socialist countries, held in March 1986 in Ulaanbaatar, the MPR set forth a proposal to convene a broadly representative meeting of parliamentarians of entire Asia and the Pacific.

The interest of India and a number of other Asian countries in pursuing the policy reflecting the sentiments of the broad public, as well as their decisions to declare

nuclear-weapon-free zones and develop cooperation in economic and cultural fields, are important factors in the preparations for the meeting of parliamentarians.

The calling of the meeting of parliamentarians of Asia and the Pacific will promote the realization of all peace initiatives of Asian countries, L.Dzantab points out.

Editorial Views Afghan Settlement Prospects *OW110021 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1710 GMT 10 Feb 88*

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 10 February (MONTSAME)—MONTSAME commentator Ya. Yunden writes:

The agreement reached by the governments of the USSR and Afghanistan on concrete dates of withdrawing the limited contingent of Soviet troops from the Afghan territory is yet become another telling confirmation of the sincere strivings of the two countries' leaderships to achieve the earliest possible settlement of the situation around Afghanistan. One can expect that such a bold and responsible step will promote the successful completion of Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva.

The USSR and Afghanistan have made one more major move towards solving the Afghan issue. All are to hope that some governments and certain politicians wouldn't take obstructionist positions because, otherwise, that would testify once again to their striving to maintain tension in the region and frustrate the Geneva talks.

M. Gorbachev said in his statement that the national reconciliation policy and the setting up of a coalition government were purely Afghan's internal affairs having no linkage with the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. His words prove that while fulfilling its internationalist duty in the friendly country the Soviet Union has never attempted to impose its will.

UNEN Hails USSR-Indonesian Peace Efforts *OW110029 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1715 GMT 10 Feb 88*

[Text] Ulaantaabar, 10 February (MONTSAME)—The national daily "UNEN" devotes its international commentary to the outcome of the official visit of the Indonesian Foreign Minister M. Kusumaatmaja paid to Moscow. It points out that the similarity and closeness of estimations given by the two countries to the pressing international issues, in particular to the problems of strengthening peace and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, predetermine the process of enhancing Soviet-Indonesian political dialogue and bilateral relations as a whole.

The talks held between E. Shevardnadze, Soviet foreign minister and Kusumaatmaja, his Indonesian counterpart, as well as the fact of President Suharto's forthcoming visit to the USSR show the importance and necessity

of taking joint and practical steps for the purpose of tackling the acute problems facing Asia and the Pacific and promoting peace and all-round cooperation among the states of the region.

The Mongolian public attaches important significance to the outcomes of the official visit of Indonesian foreign minister to the USSR and considers it to be an important practical move towards developing Soviet-Indonesian relations, political dialogue and talks for the sake of consolidating peace, security, cooperation and trust in this vast region of the globe, the daily underscores.

North Korea

Statement Urges Response on Talks Proposal SK111457 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Press statement by the general secretary of the North side's Preparatory Committee for a North-South joint conference released on 11 February—read by announcer]

[Text] It will be a month since [we] delivered to the South Korean side the letter sent to the South Korean authorities, various parties and social organizations, and people of all walks of life which was adopted at a joint meeting of the DPRK Central People's Committee and State Administration Council and various parties and social organizations.

As is well known, in the letter, we courteously proposed to hold a North-South joint conference, where representatives of various parties and social organizations and people of all walks of life, including the persons in authority both in the North and the South, would participate, and to urgently discuss and resolve in the conference the acute tasks that the North and the South must resolve within this year, including the question of discontinuing the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise and other large-scale military exercises; the question of arranging multinational arms reduction talks; the question of realizing the North-South cosponsorship of the Olympics, regardless of the stipulated deadline for the application for participation in the Olympics; and the question of ending slandering and smearing each other. For this we also proposed to hold a preliminary meeting in Panmunjom on 19 February. Our constructive negotiation proposal is a very timely and reasonable measure for national salvation taken out of a noble desire to turn, at all costs, the situation on the Korean peninsula, which is at the crossroads of war and peace, into a phase for alleviation [of tension] and peace and to realize national reconciliation and unity between the North and the South.

Our proposal for convening a North-South joint conference is a just proposal on which the will of various parties and social organizations and people of all walks of life, who demand that they be permitted to personally

participate in resolving the reunification issue, is also fully reflected. Therefore, not only all the Korean people but also governments and broad-based people of various countries of the world and international organizations and associations who hope for peace in our country and her peaceful reunification express whole-hearted support and sympathy for our proposal for convening a North-South joint conference and unanimously hope that a North-South joint conference will be held at the earliest date.

Reflecting such a desire of the peoples at home and abroad, we have so far made sincere efforts to successfully guarantee convening a North-South joint conference. On 4 February we held the second meeting of the North side's Preparatory Committee for a North-South joint conference and discussed measures related to convening a joint conference and even the question of organizing our side's delegation to be sent to a preliminary meeting. According to this, we are accelerating preparations for a preliminary meeting in earnest. However, in contrast with this the South Korean side insincerely has not, as of today, given, when a month has passed since it received our letter. In particular, in a foolish attempt to block the influence of our proposal for convening a North-South joint conference, the next day after they received our letter, the persons in authority in South Korea announced the so-called results of investigation into the passenger plane disappearance incident and adhered to mean maneuvers to turn public attention elsewhere, while kicking up vicious commotions to smear the Republic. To coincide with this, the South Korean National Unification Board sent to the National Assembly a trend report that viciously smeared our proposal for convening a North-South joint conference and the highest-level ruler [choegojipkwonja], before domestic and foreign reporters, and openly rejected dialogue for peace between the North and the South, while stressing the theory of dialogue in the 1990's. On 28 January, the persons in authority in South Korea, even announced the plan to conduct the very provocative "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise together with the United States, thus challenging our sincere efforts to open a new phase for national reconciliation, unity, and peaceful reunification. Because of the confrontation maneuvers rejecting dialogue and peace by persons in authority in South Korea, today an acute situation in which the fuse of war may be lit at any time is promoted on the Korean peninsula.

Historic facts graphically show what big disasters the road toward confrontation and war inflicted upon our nation and what sad tragedies were enforced upon our nation. The North and the South, which are of the same race, must no longer be hostile to and confront each other and must pave the road toward living peacefully together after being reconciled and united at all costs. It is high time that any Koreans who worry about the destiny of the country and the nation, regardless of whether they live in the North or the South and regardless of whatever ideas, ideology, doctrines, and demands

they adhere to, should positively rise up in the noble movement for national salvation to provide a plaza for greater national unity.

On this occasion, I call on all the South Korean people, including various parties and social organizations and personages of all walks life that love the nation and have an earnest desire for the reunification of the fatherland, to sternly oppose the U.S. imperialists and the persons in authority in South Korea and to devote sincerity and efforts to realizing, at the earliest, our proposal for convening a North-South joint conference, a proposal designed to make this year a historic year when a new turning point for national reconciliation, unity, and peace will be provided. The persons in authority in South Korea must stop the traitorous act of making it their undertaking to follow the policy of war and confrontation after becoming the U.S. imperialists' culprits and must stop maneuvering to hinder convening a North-South joint conference.

The government of the Republic, parties, social organizations, and people of all walks of life and all other people will also in the future make all sincere efforts to hold a North-South joint conference at the earliest date after crushing the hindrance maneuvers of the persons in authority in South Korea. The date for a preliminary meeting for convening a North-South joint conference proposed by us is at hand. I call on the South Korean side to ponder our important proposal for convening a North-South joint conference and to make a positive response to it at the earliest date.

[Dated] 11 February 1988, Pyongyang

Vienna Meeting Adopts Appeal on Reunification
*SK110523 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2200 GMT 9 Feb 88*

[Appeal to the governments, parliaments, political parties, and social organizations of all countries in the world and to the international organizations adopted at the enlarged meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Liaison Committee for the Reunification and Peace of Korea held in Vienna on 5 and 6 February]

[Text] An appeal to the governments, parliaments, political parties, and social organizations of all countries in the world and to the international organizations:

An enlarged meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Liaison Committee for the Reunification and Peace of Korea was held in Vienna, Austria, on 5 and 6 February 1988.

The meeting analyzed the situation on the Korea peninsula, particularly the South Korean situation following the powerful popular movements for independence, democracy, and reunification, and discussed measures to

further expand and strengthen the international solidarity campaign for the Korean people's just cause of peace and peaceful reunification of their fatherland.

The meeting affirmatively assessed the DPRK proposals, particularly the proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks and the proposal for phased arms reduction, and highly praised the unilateral reduction of 100,000 KPA troops that had been carried out with the objective to ease tension on the Korean peninsula and achieve national unity.

The meeting has confirmed that, despite the DPRK efforts, the United States and the persons in authority in South Korea are increasing the danger of war and aggravating North-South relations in Korea by seeking the policy of heightening tension on the Korean peninsula.

The United States and the persons in authority in South Korea are continuing to bring new-type nuclear weapons and their delivery means into South Korea and mobilizing all human and material resources in making war preparations.

The meeting participants expressed deep apprehensions over the fact that the United States and the persons in authority in South Korea are massing huge armed forces in South Korea on the pretext of a successful guarantee for the Olympics, and that they announced a plan to stage the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise simulating a nuclear war against the DPRK from February to May 1988.

The United States and the persons in authority in South Korea, instead of eliminating the cause of North-South confrontation, have concocted such a shameless drama of intrigue as the disappearance of the South Korean airliner and are trying to justify their vicious commotions against the DPRK

The meeting condemned such a provocative act which destroys the dignity of the DPRK and aggravates the situation on the Korean peninsula.

Over such a dangerous situation, the meeting, by reflecting the desire of the world people, reaffirmed the demand to remove the danger of war from the Korean peninsula and to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone.

The Korean people's struggle to have foreign troops and nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea and to achieve the peace and reunification of Korea is a part of the world peoples' activities to prevent a new war and defend world peace.

The meeting highly assessed the new proposal for North-South dialogue which President Kim Il-sung has put forward by saying that the DPRK is willing to meet and converse at any time not only with the people from all

walks of life, political parties, organizations and people of different opposition groups, but also with those in authority in South Korea, unless this is contrary to the people's opinion, and to meet everyone individually and collectively to exchange opinions without reserve.

President Kim Il-song, in stressing the need for national reconciliation and unity to create a favorable environment for North-South dialogue, proposed that a North-South joint conference be convened at an early date to quickly discuss and settle the question of halting large-scale military exercises, including the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, within this year, the question of arranging multinational arms reduction talks, and the question of jointly hosting the 24th Olympics by the North and South.

Reaffirming the support for the proposal for tripartite talks, the proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks, and the proposal for North-South joint conference, the meeting appealed for intensifying the international movement of solidarity with the Korean people's struggle for peace and reunification of Korea.

The meeting expressed hope that the governments, parliaments, political parties, and social organizations of all countries and international organizations will call on the United States and the persons in authority in South Korea to accept the DPRK's proposal for arms reduction and, thus, contribute to removing the danger of nuclear war from the Korean peninsula and defending world peace and security.

The meeting considered that, if the United States and the persons in authority in South Korea truly desire peace and reunification of Korea, as they clamor, they should prove it by immediately halting large-scale military exercises such as the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise.

The meeting indicates to the world public opinion and brings a charge before the international tribunal against the United States and the persons in authority in South Korea who masterminded the shocking bloodbath in Kwangju in May 1979 and who worked out a script for the airliner incident in November 1987.

Resolutely opposing the election of dictator No Tae-u as president in South Korea, the meeting denounced the ever intensified suppression and ever worsening human rights violations in South Korea, and appealed to the world people for positive support for the struggle of the South Korean youths, students, and people for independence, democracy, and national reunification.

The meeting appealed to the peace- and justice-loving peoples of the world to express full support and solidarity with the Korean people's just struggle to achieve

national reunification and peace in Korea by way of founding a neutral confederal state which will recognize the existence of the North and South.

The meeting expressed respect to the heads of state and government of many countries, the leaders of political parties, social organizations, individual personages, international organizations, and the peace-loving peoples of many countries for their contribution to the successful international signature campaign conducted in 1987, the international year for the peace and reunification of Korea.

The meeting expresses conviction that the governments, parliaments, political parties, social organizations, and individual personages of all countries and international organizations will direct even greater interest to the Korean issue and extend support for and solidarity with the Korean people's struggle to have foreign troops and nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea and to achieve the peaceful reunification of the country.

The meeting appeals to the progressive forces of the world to further expand the international signature campaign for peace and reunification of Korea, conducted by the International Liaison Committee.

Let us unite to make the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free peace zone and vigorously carry out the international movement of solidarity for the reunification and peace of Korea.

[Signed] The enlarged meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Liaison Committee for the Reunification and Peace of Korea

[Dated] 6 February 1988, Vienna.

Committee Supports Proposal
SK110850 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2300 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] At an enlarged meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Liaison Committee for the Reunification and Peace of Korea held in Vienna, Austria, from 5 to 6 February, Roger Dafflon, the honorary chairman of the International Liaison Committee and former mayor of Geneva, Switzerland, and Guy Dupre, secretary of the International Liaison Committee, made speeches.

Roger Dafflon, the honorary chairman of the International Liaison Committee and former mayor of Geneva, Switzerland, made a speech on the first agenda item entitled: The recent South Korean situation and tasks to further strengthen the international solidarity to support the South Korean people's anti-fascist anti-U.S. struggle for independence and democracy.

In the speech, he pointed out that by joining the struggle of the world's people to eliminate the danger of a nuclear war and to ensure the peace and security of the world, the International Liaison Committee has actively carried out a worldwide international movement for solidarity with the Korean people's struggle for peace and the peaceful reunification of the nation. Referring to the South Korean situation, he recalled that last year the struggle of the people from all walks of life was waged vigorously on an unprecedented scale against the United States and the fascists and for independence and democracy. He exposed the fascist repressive maneuvers perpetrated by the South Korean puppets under the support of the U.S. imperialists.

Pointing to the prevailing situation in South Korea where military rule is continuing, he said that because of the maneuvers of the United States to use South Korea as an important stepping-stone for implementing its aggressive policy on Asia and the Pacific, the Korean peninsula still remains a hotbed for war and the issue of the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea remains an unsolved question.

Touching on the consistent efforts of our Republic for the peaceful solution of the Korean issue, he pointed to the proposal made by our Republic last year for large-scale phased arms reduction and to the unilateral cutting of 100,000 troops of the KPA.

He condemned the unjust attitude of the South Korean puppets toward our just and fair peace proposals and the plan for cohosting the Olympics. He also denounced the U.S. imperialists who brought traitor No Tae-u to the front replacing traitor Chon Tu-hwan in order to continue to maintain their colonial rule over South Korea.

He exposed the maneuvers perpetrated by the South Korean puppet clique with the behind-the-scenes manipulation of the U.S. imperialists to divert the people's attention by concocting the passenger aircraft incident on the eve of the presidential election and pointed out that the United States and the South Korean regime spread various smear rumors in connection with this incident. However, they were unable to deceive world public opinion even to a slight degree.

He then noted that in particular, the U.S. imperialists even dragged Japan into its anti-Republic smear campaign prompted by this incident and that so-called sanctions taken by Tokyo against the Republic following the United States were related to the anti-Japanese sentiment increasing in South Korea as was shown in the strong anti-Japanese demonstrations in Seoul. He pointed out that various facts positively proved that the passenger aircraft incident was a smear worked out and executed by the South Korean intelligence organization under the manipulation of the South Korean regime and the United States. He denounced the rascals for

maneuvering to shift responsibility for this incident onto our Republic to repress the people's spirit for struggle and to mislead the fair public opinion of the world.

Dafflon appealed for the denunciation of the anti-Republic smear campaign by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets and their various criminal provocations, including the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise.

He continued: In his New Year message, President Kim Il-song has taught: From the outset, the issue of national reunification is not an issue of swallowing someone by someone or of being swallowed by someone nor an issue of overcoming one side by the other by gaining superiority. This is an issue of realizing national unity between the North and the South as fellow countrymen who share the same blood.

As has been shown through historical experience, if one distrusts and confronts another and pursues division, one cannot expect any success in dialogue no matter how many times one may hold dialogue. Furthermore, if one attempts to compete with strength, the issue of reunification can never be resolved.

We should introduce, propagandize, and support the lines put forth by President Kim Il-song in his new year message and the proposals made by the DPRK Government.

In conclusion, Dafflon stressed that the International Liaison Committee should prepare action programs for 1988 and thoroughly implement them while consolidating successes attained in the international signature campaign for peace and the reunification of Korea. Guy Dupre, secretary of the International Liaison Committee, made a speech on the second agenda item entitled: Summing up movements of solidarity carried out for peace and reunification of Korea in the international year and future measures. Touching on movements of solidarity with the Korean people, which were actively carried out in many nations of the world in 1987, he pointed out that more than 1,000 solidarity measures and important proposals were put forward in about 100 nations up to the end of last year.

He also noted that more than 8 hundred million people from all walks of life in about 120 world countries and about 20 international organizations and approximately 80 heads of political parties, states, and governments participated in the international signature campaign conducted last year according to the appeal of the International Liaison Committee for the Peace and Reunification of Korea, thus evoking great repercussions.

Denouncing the occupation of South Korea by the U.S. imperialists and their policy of aggression, the secretary pointed out that the U.S. imperialists' maneuvers to increase nuclear arms in South Korea serve as a grave

threat against the peace and security of the world. Stressing that eliminating the danger of war on the Korean peninsula and realizing peace and reunification are unanimous aspirations of the Korean people and the people of the world, he exposed and denounced the criminal maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets who pursue war, division and confrontation by running counter to the trend of the time.

Touching on the direction of activities of the International Liaison Committee, Dupre said that activities of denouncing the criminal acts of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique should be strengthened and stressed that the activities of the International Liaison Committee are not merely activities designed to obtain understanding or support. He then pointed out that the International Liaison Committee has reasonable and realistic prospects [chonmang] to eliminate the main factors creating the danger of war in Korea, to ensure a durable peace and to resolve the issue of reunification peacefully in accordance with the aspirations of the people of the world.

The secretary noted that such prospects include numerous proposals and the invariable position of the DPRK to resolve the Korean issue peacefully and in particular, these prospects can be found in the plan for convening a North-South joint conference advanced by President Kim Il-song.

He denounced the unjust attitude of the South Korean puppet clique toward our peace proposals and stressed that the grave situation created on the Korean peninsula cannot be accepted by any of the Korean people who are still suffering the pains caused by the nation's division. Pointing out that the International Liaison Committee will concentrate its efforts on easing tension on the Korean peninsula and on realizing peace and peaceful reunification, the secretary appealed for strengthening the international movements of solidarity to support the just cause of the Korean people for the peaceful reunification of the nation, denouncing the war provocations of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique.

Iranian Deputy Prime Minister Completes Visit
SK111057 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1035 GMT 11 Feb 88

[“Iranian Deputy Prime Minister Expresses Satisfaction With His Korean Visit”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 11 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song on February 10 received a message of thanks sent by ‘Ali Reza Mo’ayeri, deputy prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, upon leaving Korea.

An Iranian Government delegation led by him paid a visit to the DPRK from February 8 to 10.

President Kim Il-song received the delegation on February 9.

Recollecting with deep emotion the day when the delegation was received by his excellency respected Kim Il-song, president of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Ali Reza Mo’ayeri in the message expressed deep thanks to the president for the warm hospitality accorded himself and the members of his delegation during their stay in Korea.

The message says that the friendship between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the DPRK which is growing stronger and developing with every passing day and the solid bonds established between the peoples of the two countries will be an encouragement to the Third World countries and non-aligned countries struggling against imperialism.

Kim Il-song Receives Letter
SK110447 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0426 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 11 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea received a personal letter from Seyyed ‘Ali Khamenei, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The letter notes that the deep, warm relations between the two countries are a great contribution to the interests of the two countries and to world peace and security and serve as effective countermeasures in the struggle against U.S. imperialism.

It says:

The Islamic Republic of Iran denounces the hostile campaigns and demagogic launched by the imperialists led by the U.S. administration against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and is convinced that with such unbridled maneuvers can they never break the firm determination and revolutionary will of the Korean people.

Taking this opportunity of declaring solidarity with the Korean people, the Iranian Muslims and revolutionary people authorized his excellency ‘Ali Reza Mo’ayeri, deputy prime minister in charge of political affairs, to visit your country and exchange views with officials of the DPRK over the matters of mutual concern, in token of this solidarity.

I also instructed him to personally inform you of the recent developments in our region and report to us views expressed by you and the officials of the DPRK.

The letter expressed most heartfelt wishes to President Kim Il-song.

U.S. Olympic Reinforcement Plans Criticized
SK110551 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0445 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] **Pyongyang February 11 (KCNA)**—NODONG SINMUN today in a signed commentary denounces the U.S. imperialists' plan to stage large naval military exercises off the coast of South Korea next fall, strengthen "early warning" and expand the exchange of "strategic intelligence" with the South Korean puppets allegedly for the "guarantee of Olympics."

The commentary says:

The ill-boding military moves of the U.S. imperialists on the pretext of the Olympics make the world people wonder whether they intend to lead the Olympics and the situation on the Korean peninsula.

It is only possible on the eve of war and during wartime to threaten people by force of arms and talk about early warning system and strategic intelligence. By saying they would guarantee by force of arms the Olympic games which should be held in a free, peaceful atmosphere, they showed the world once again that South Korea is unfit for the Olympics and the puppets under the patronage of the U.S. master are a group of war fanatics who are not entitled to host international games.

More than once have we declared that we have no intention to "invade the South" on all accounts, and showed it in practice.

The military moves of the U.S. imperialists and the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u group on the pretext of the Olympics only show the last-ditch efforts of those who felt uneasy with the South Korean people's vigorous struggle against their colonial military fascist rule.

U.S. Military Plans Viewed
SK110719 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2154 GMT 10 Feb 88

[NODONG SINMUN February commentary: "Where Do They Intend To Lead the Olympics?"]

[Text] The U.S. imperialists, who plan to stage the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise in defiance of our peace-loving proposal and sincere efforts for its realization, have openly announced that they will stage a large-scale naval military exercise on the South Korean waters this fall, the period of the Olympics. The bellicose U.S. imperialist maniacs' criminal attempt to deploy large-scale air force and marine units, including 1 of 2 aircraft carriers accompanied by more than 10 escort ships, in South Korea and the area around the Korea peninsula during the period of the Olympic games has been revealed recently. Subsequent to this, the U.S. Administration officially announced such a plan on 8 February.

That day, a spokesman of the U.S. Department of Defense, stating that such a military exercise will be staged without an advance announcement, clamored that the exercise will be a demonstration of U.S. support for South Korea. The U.S. imperialists have also planned to strengthen the early warning system and to further expand the exchange of strategic intelligence with the South Korean puppets for the security of the Olympics.

The fact that these powder-kegging war plans to threaten our Republic have been openly announced in succession by the U.S. Administration and the U.S. Department of Defense shows that the U.S. imperialists' criminal attempt to use the Olympics for the security of the colonial and military regime, to accelerate war preparations, using the security of the colonial and military regime as an excuse, and finally to trigger a new war is becoming more unscrupulous with each passing day.

Such an ominous military commotion perpetrated by the U.S. imperialists on the excuse of the Olympics has led the people of the world wonder where the U.S. imperialists intend to lead the Olympics and the situation on the Korean peninsula.

Threatening people with armed forces and clamoring about early warning and strategic intelligence are an occurrence that can be seen only on the eve of the provocation of a war and in wartime. Such a military commotion is not an attitude for the games but an attitude for war and totally runs counter to the ideal and principle of the Olympics that are directed toward peace and friendship.

Clamoring about a guarantee with armed forces for the Olympic games, which should be held in a free and peaceful atmosphere, lays bare to the world once again that South Korea is not suitable for the venue of the Olympics and that the puppets under the instigation of their U.S. bosses are a group of war maniacs who are not entitled to host the international games. We have clarified more than once or twice through practical acts that we have no intention to invade the South. We have asserted that the 24th Olympic games should be cohosted in conformity with the ideal of the Olympics and the cause of peaceful reunification, because if the Olympic games are held in one side of a divided country, this will result in aggravating confrontation and division only.

Even now, we assert that a North-South joint conference be convened and that the pending issues, including the issue of cohosting the Olympics, be discussed and resolved there. It is too obvious that this does not constitute a threat to the Olympics.

Attempting to hold the sports games while covering all of South Korea with the repressive nets of the army and police and with bayonets and kicking up a war commotion with the booms of fighter-bombers and combat

ships reverberating in the sky and sea is precisely an open state terrorist act and a military, fascist frenzy which threatens the Olympics.

The crisis existing in South Korea today is caused not by the nonexistent threat of southward invasion. It has been created due to the barbarous colonial and repressive policy of smothering the spirit of the South Korean people's anti-U.S. and antifascist struggle.

The military commotions perpetrated by the U.S. imperialists and the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u ring under the pretext of the Olympics are precisely its last-ditch struggle kicked up after feeling uneasy with the South Korean people's strong resistance against the colonial and military fascist rule.

The treatment that those who are fond of military threats and playing with fire are to receive is only curse, condemnation, and rejection at home and abroad. They should clearly realize this.

South Urged To Frustrate 'Team Spirit'
*SK101535 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1514 GMT 10 Feb 88*

[Text] Pyongyang February 10 (KCNA)—Mass rallies were held at the Kim Chong-tae Electric Locomotive Complex, Musan Mining Complex, Chongsan Cooperative Farm, Kangso District, Nampo Municipality, and Unha Cooperative Farm, Unjon County, North Pyongan Province, to denounce the "Team Spirit 88" joint military rehearsal and nuclear war moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique.

The rallies were addressed by leading personages of the complex and cooperative farm and their employers and farmers.

The speakers said: The "Team Spirit 88" joint military rehearsal of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets this year is aimed at bringing under control the crisis of their tottering colonial rule in South Korea, converting South Korea into their permanent colony and military base for aggression and nuclear forward base and, with it as a springboard, invading the whole of Korea and other Asian countries.

Noting that the criminal nuclear war rehearsal of the U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppet clique is creating a tense situation which may lead to the outbreak of a nuclear war any moment on the Korean peninsula, they said that all the Korean people in North and South and overseas and the world's peace-loving people should heighten vigilance against their new war provocation maneuvers and smash them at every step.

KPA Rally Denounces Exercise
*SK111014 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1001 GMT 11 Feb 88*

[“Any Aggressive Acts of Enemy Shall Be Strongly Retaliated”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 11 (KCNA)—Korean People's Army officers and men will always follow with heightened vigilance the reckless nuclear war exercises of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets and counter their aggressive acts with thousand-fold retaliations.

Soldiers were unanimous in saying this in their speeches at a meeting Wednesday at the Kim Il-song Military University to denounce the "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercises and nuclear war manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique.

Pointing out that after they announced a plan to stage the "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercises, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique are massing and moving a large number of troops and military and technical materiel, inciting a war fever, the speakers including Lieutenant General Kwon Chung-yong vehemently denounced their thrice-cursed nuclear war moves in the name of the entire People's Army officers and men.

Saying the "Team Spirit 88" is an allout challenge to the DPRK's just and reasonable peace initiative, they called for decisively checking and frustrating the adventurous war game that runs counter to the nation's desire for peace, detente and reconciliation.

If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets think they can frighten somebody by large-scale war exercises and nuclear weapons, it is a gross miscalculation, they said, and stressed:

They should clearly know what miserable end those warmaniacs who liked to play with fire have met with, and should immediately stop the criminal war game.

The speakers sternly warned that the U.S. imperialists should not run riot, looking foursquare at the Korean people and People's Army officers and men who have the firm will to defend the dignity of the nation and safeguard their sacred home territory at any cost.

SKNDf Issues Three-Part Slogan for 1988
*SK110419 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1500 GMT 10 Feb 88*

[Text] Pyongyang February 10 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDf] on February 4 issued a slogan for 1988, according to radio "Voice of National Salvation."

In the first part the slogan stressed the need to accelerate the cause of anti-fascism and democracy and the cause of national reunification beneath the uplifted banner of anti-U.S. struggle for independence. It called for liquidating the colonial rule of the United States and realizing the nation's sovereignty and for expelling the United States, [words indistinct] independent reunification and the midwife of the No Tae-u's military dictatorial "regime."

It appealed to the people to determinedly oppose the "Team Spirit" exercises which are bringing the clouds of thermonuclear war, to retake the prerogative of supreme command of the "ROK army" at an early date and oust the U.S. forces.

It urged No Tae-u to make clear the truth of the Kwangju incident and face a judgement by people, and called upon the people not to be taken in by No's talk about "democracy and concord" but to struggle to win democracy and smash the socalled "great harmony of the people" by the great unity of the democratic, patriotic forces.

It called for making the polling stations of "National Assembly elections a place declaring an end to the military rule and for overthrowing the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u group through a second June people's resistance and establishing a genuine democratic regime.

In the second part the slogan called upon the workers, peasants, youth and students, educationists, men of the press, minor entrepreneurs, opposition politicians, religionists, women and patriotic soldiers to daringly rise in a sacred struggle for independence, democracy and reunification.

In the third part it called for further activating the mass movement in accordance with the idea of chuche.

Saying the immortal chuche idea founded by the respected leader President Kim Il-song is the only guiding idea of the national salvation movement, the slogan called for actively propagandizing and disseminating the chuche idea and increasing the number of its followers.

Construction of Kwangbok Street Speeding Up *SK041010 Pyongyang KCNA in English* *1004 GMT 4 Feb 88*

[Text] Pyongyang February 4 (KCNA)—A campaign to create a new "Pyongyang speed of construction" is going on at construction sites of Kwangbok Street and other major objects in the capital city of Pyongyang.

After overfulfilling their vast assignments in January, the builders of Kwangbok Street are expediting the project through an unprecedented innovation.

Plastering and interior fitting are underway at a fast rate at the 25,000-seat football stadium, nine gyms, the students and children's palace and dozens of other objects.

The builders of the athletic gymnasium have carried out 80 percent of the work of construction planned. The plasterers of the tourist hotel are doing their job well over a space of more than 100,000 square metres.

Innovation is also reported at the construction sites of high-rise buildings for 25,000 families. Apartment houses for more than 10,000 families were assembled last year. The builders are speeding up the assembling and more than doubling the work efficiency in the building of inside walls and in plastering.

Efforts are being made to complete the construction of the Nungnado Stadium, one of the major projects, by September 9 this year, the 40th anniversary of the DPRK founding. The builders of the stadium have manufactured almost all of the arch roof trusses with a total space of 80,000 square metres and a total weight of 6,000 tons, and are assembling them and doing interior fitting in real earnest. They increased the speed of the project 1.5 times by introducing a new building method in the interior fitting of the stadium with over 700 big and small rooms.

At the construction site of the international airport, primary concrete-tamping for the runways has been finished and progress made in the laying of taxiways.

Three Revolutions Team Movement Urged *SK110115 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean* *2120 GMT 9 Feb 88*

[NODONG SINMUN 10 February editorial: "Let Us More Vigorously Push Ahead With the Three Revolutions Teams Movement"]

[Text] The line of the three revolutions is the banner of our people's struggle, advance, victory, and glory. Under the solemn circumstances in which the all-out march toward the grand goal of the Third 7-Year Plan is being accelerated, holding aloft this great banner, today we mark the 15th anniversary of the launching of the three revolutions teams [TRT] movement. Fifteen years ago, on 10 February 1973, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song made a historic speech at a lecture for members of the TRT in the industrial sector and took the revolutionary step of sending large-scale TRT composed of core party elements and young intellectuals to plants and enterprises. The proud history of the TRT movement began from this time.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's initiation of the TRT movement was a historic event in the revolutionary struggle of our people. With the initiation of the TRT movement, our people have come to have the powerful revolutionary guiding method that makes it possible to

thoroughly exercise party leadership on the three revolutions and to vigorously accelerate socialist and communist construction, and, at the same time, brighter prospects have been opened on the path of our revolution which is advancing along the banner of the three revolutions.

The TRT movement initiated by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has been constantly deepened and developed and its correctness and vitality have been fully demonstrated under the leadership of our party. Fifteen years have passed since the TRT movement was initiated. This period has been embroidered with the history of our party's tested leadership that has brilliantly led the three revolutions and socialist construction to victory by firmly grasping the TRT movement.

Our party has not only seen to it that the TRT movement is firmly converted into party work and that the correct and orderly system for the TRT movement is established, but has also clearly elucidated the mission and duty of the three revolutions teams, the direction and principles of their activities, and all other problems that arise in developing the TRT movement.

Thanks to such energetic leadership by our party, it has been possible for the TRT movement to traverse its proud road and to fully demonstrate its might in accelerating the revolution and construction. The revolution continues. Therefore, we should continuously and vigorously push ahead with the TRT movement on the basis of the already achieved successes.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: We should constantly develop the TRT movement, the superiority and vitality of which have been clearly proven through practice.

Vigorously accelerating the TRT movement is an important requirement to strengthen the subject of our revolution by all means, to accelerate socialist and communist construction, and, thus, to more firmly deepen the might of the Republic.

We are carrying out the revolution under the difficult conditions of direct confrontation with the U.S. imperialists. The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique have constantly perpetrated the maneuvers for aggression and ideological and cultural offensives against the northern half of the Republic, thus, leading the situation to the brink of war.

In order to accelerate socialist construction under such a tense situation, we should further strengthen the subject of the revolution. To this end, we should constantly and vigorously wage the TRT movement. By so doing we can constantly enhance the party's combat capability and leading role, more firmly rally the broad segments of the masses around the party, and strengthen the country's political and economic might by all means.

Continuously and vigorously pushing ahead with the TRT movement is also an urgent requirement to accelerate the ongoing grand construction march and to expedite the implementation of the Third 7-Year Plan and the complete victory of socialism. The TRT movement is a mighty driving force in effecting a revolutionary turn in socialist construction by inspiring the popular masses. When we further strengthen the TRT movement, we can more vigorously organize and mobilize the broad segments of the popular masses into the struggle to implement the party's economic policy, can enhance the sense of responsibility and role of functionaries, party members, and the working people, and, thus, can effect constant upsurges in socialist construction by thoroughly implementing the Taean work system.

Vigorously pushing ahead with the TRT movement is precisely our party's consistent policy. Reflected in this is our party's firm will to complete the socialist and communist cause under the banner of the three revolutions.

All party organizations, functionaries, and the working people should deeply realize the party's intent and continuously and vigorously struggle to deepen and develop the TRT movement in conformity with the demands of the developing reality.

The task of first priority in vigorously pushing ahead with the TRT movement today is, as in the past, to actively accelerate the three revolution—ideological, technological, and cultural. The three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—are the basic method to model the whole society after the chuche idea. The important purpose for our party to wage the TRT movement is precisely to build communism by thoroughly carrying out the three revolutions.

All TRT should thoroughly implement the party's policy of pushing ahead with the technological and cultural revolutions alike, while firmly giving priority to the ideological revolution. Members of the Three Revolutions Teams should strengthen the indoctrination in the chuche idea among party members and the working people and should resolve all problems through their political work, the work with people.

The ideological remodeling work can bear great and satisfactory results only when it is carried out closely with the practice of the revolution. Members of the TRT should conduct the ideological revolution closely with the work to successfully implement the economic tasks assigned to their units at present and, thus, should see to it that the high revolutionary zeal and creativeness of the working people are demonstrated in the course of practical struggle to accelerate today's grand construction march.

In particular, by vigorously pushing ahead with the movement to win the red flag of the three revolutions and the movement to learn and follow the model deeds of the unheralded heroes, members of the TRT should firmly convert the three revolutions into the work of the masses themselves.

The TRT are composed of many young intellectuals with knowledge on modern sciences and technology. Therefore, when these mighty intellectuals are mobilized, great progress can be achieved in carrying out the technological revolution. All members of the TRT should actively contribute to resolving the scientific and technological problems which arise in strengthening self-reliance and chuche-oriented nature of the national economy and in expediting the implementation of the Third 7-Year Plan.

In particular, by holding aloft the flames of the massive technological innovation movement they should present many valuable creative suggestions and ideas for rationalization and make active efforts so that these creative suggestions and ideas can be adopted in production.

Along with this, all members of the TRT should take much interest in the implementation of the cultural revolution. Thus, they should establish tidiness in production and tidiness in life, accelerate intellectualization of the whole society, and, in particular, see to it that all the working people work militantly and live in conformity with the demands of the present tense situation.

Members of the TRT are the enthusiastic protectors and executors of the party's policy. How the party's policy is implemented at each sector depends greatly on the struggle of the members of the TRT in the sector. All members of the TRT should firmly grasp the party's policy in their sectors and units and establish the revolutionary work habit of unconditionally and thoroughly implementing the policy.

An important task in deepening and developing the TRT movement is also to epochally enhance the sense of responsibility and role of the members of the TRT who are directly responsible for this movement. Our party has bestowed the noble and precious title of vanguard of the three revolutions and standard bearer of struggle on members of the TRT and, at the same time, has assigned them to the important sentry posts of socialist construction. For members of the TRT, there is no greater glory and value than this.

All members of the TRT should outstandingly carry out their missions and duties by firmly cherishing in their hearts the party's confidence in and expectation toward them and by vigorously struggling, devoting their burning wisdom and energy.

Members of the TRT should take our party's ideology and theory as firm faith, should prepare themselves to become thorough revolutionary elites in safeguarding and defending the party and the leader politically and

ideologically, and should become resolute and indomitable fighters who follow the party's instruction regardless of where, when, and what they do, worthy of the revolutionary vanguards who have been sent by the party center.

There are many tasks that members of the TRT should carry out today. Now that the whole country seethes with the grand construction struggle and vast tasks have arisen today, now is the very time for all members of the Three Revolutions Teams to unanimously rise up with burning hearts of loyalty.

All members of the TRT should brilliantly achieve the party's plan to effect new revolutionary upsurges in socialist construction by deeply realizing their heavy sense of responsibility to the party and the revolution and, thus, by exerting themselves.

Constantly improving work methods and work styles is an important requirement to enhance the role of the members of the TRT. The TRT movement proceeds from the revolutionary mass line and is a revolutionary guiding method that has embodied the demands of the Chongsan-ri spirit, the Chongsan-ri method, and the Taean work system.

The members of the TRT should make it an established system and their life habit to go deep among the masses and work and live with them in conformity with the nature of the TRT movement, and, not adhering to set formalities and patterns but becoming one in mind and heart with the working people, should always get along well with them.

Going through fire and water to implement the party's policy and leading by personal example is a noble trait to be maintained by the members of the TRT. The members of the TRT should think more and walk more than others, and should be willing to carry out, ahead of others, any difficult task that their unit might experience. By so doing, they should establish the dignity of their work, lead the masses through high practical success and by showing an example of a vanguard struggling at the head of the work to implement the party's policy, thereby becoming true vanguards who are really loved and respected by the masses.

It is especially important for our members of the TRT to have strong struggle power and developing power. There are obstacles in the course of the revolutionary struggle. Without struggle, the revolution could not advance. The three revolutions are the revolutions to change old things into new things in the fields of ideology, technology, and culture. All members of the TRT should maintain high revolution-mindedness and party's principle-mindedness, with an attitude befitting the vanguard of the three revolutions and the standard-bearer of struggle dispatched by the party, prevent any unsound element hampering the three revolutions from infiltrating into our society, and ensure that the work of their sector and

unit is thoroughly carried out according to the party's intent. At the same time, they should push ahead with all the revolutionary tasks to the end with strong will and revolutionary developing power.

Further strengthening the party's guidance for the TRT work is an important task that arises in deepening and developing the TRT movement. Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau, and secretary, of the party Central Committee, has noted: The provincial, municipal, and county party committees should further intensify the guidance for the TRT work so that all members of the Three Revolutions Teams can vigorously push ahead with the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural.

Enhancing the might of the TRT movement is not a mere working-level work but a political task to adhere to and add luster to the achievements of the party and the leader. The party organizations and functionaries of various levels should be deeply aware of the important role the TRT movement plays in the strengthening and development of our party and in carrying out the revolutionary cause and place major emphasis on deepening and developing this movement.

The party organizations of various levels should inform the TRT members of the party's policy in a timely manner, effectively conduct indoctrination work with them, and satisfactorily solve all problems arising in carrying out the three revolutions in cooperation with the TRT. Also, they should actively support new initiatives, constructive opinions, and good experiences put forward by the TRT and take care of them so that the conditions necessary for their activities are well provided to ensure that they effect great success in their work with high pride in working as vanguards of the three revolutions.

Not only the party organizations but also the state economic organizations scientific and educational organizations, and working people's organizations should always maintain close relations with the Three Revolutions Teams and join their efforts to implement the line of the three revolutions.

All party organizations, functionaries, working people, and members of the TRT should uphold the party's leadership and push ahead with the TRT movement more vigorously and continuously effect revolutionary upsurges in carrying out the three revolutions and socialist construction.

South Korea

Soviet Military Attaché Attends Reception
SK110958 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
11 Feb 88 p 1

[Correspondent Ho Tae-hong report from Tokyo]

[Text] A military attaché of the Soviet Embassy in Japan attended a reception hosted by the South Korean Embassy there on the occasion of the departure of the

latter's military attaché, drawing attention in connection with the ROK moves to approach the communist bloc.

Nikolay A. Usov (Navy captain) of the Soviet Embassy and his wife attended the farewell party for the ROK Embassy military attaché Colonel (Army) Chon Tu-ho held at a Korean restaurant in Akasaka, Tokyo, on the evening of 10 February.

According to the ROK Embassy, Military Attaché Usov was officially invited by the ROK side to the reception since he was the head of the association of the 35 military attaches of the embassies of the countries stationed in Japan. To date the diplomats of both countries have met and conversed with each other at functions hosted by the Japanese side, but this is the first time for an official of the Soviet Embassy to attend a party hosted by the ROK Embassy.

According to one participant, Military Attaché Chon expressed his gratitude to Usov for his coming to the party. Usov responded to this with a smile, and, thus, a cheerful atmosphere prevailed.

Military Attaché Chon said that Military Attaché Usov was invited as head of the military attaches association and that there was no other political significance.

Kim Il-song Reportedly Apologizes for Bombing
SK110211 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
11 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] Washington (YONHAP)—North Korea's Kim Il-song sent emissaries to China and the Soviet Union to apologize after it was made public that North Korean agents had blown up a Korean Air jetliner, and to vow not to allow the repetition of such barbarism, a Canadian newspaper, THE CITIZEN, said recently.

The Feb. 6 edition of the Ottawa daily, made available here Tuesday, quoted an unnamed source in a pro-Pyongyang group of Koreans in Japan as saying Kim sent special envoys to pacify Beijing and Moscow, who were upset by the bombing.

He was reported to have also said he might sacrifice Kim Chong-il, his son and heir-apparent, for masterminding the terrorist act.

UN Council Session on Bombing Requested
SK110243 Seoul YONHAP in English
0217 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] New York, Feb. 10 (YONHAP)—The South Korean and Japanese Governments on Wednesday separately asked the U.N. Security Council to convene a session to discuss the North Korean bombing of a South Korean jetliner last November which claimed the lives of all 115 people aboard.

Pak Kun, South Korean ambassador to the United Nations, delivered a formal request for the session to Vernon Walters, president of the Security Council at 10:20 a.m. Wednesday (15:20 GMT), which was followed by a similar move in less than three hours by Hideo Kagami, Japan's ambassador to the world body.

It is the first time that South Korea, which is not a U.N. member, has requested a U.N. Security Council session since September 1983 when the Soviets shot down a Korean Air (KAL) passenger jet over the seas near Sakhalin.

Upon receiving the formal requests by the two governments, the head of the U.N. Security Council announced that a closed-door meeting for a formal consultation of 15 council members will be held Friday morning to give prior deliberation to the requests.

In order for the request to be made a formal agenda item, it should obtain a minimum of nine affirmative votes from the 15-member Security Council, which the South Korean mission to the U.N. said has already been secured as of Wednesday.

The Security Council comprises five permanent members empowered to exercise a veto and 10 nonpermanent ones. The permanent members are the United States, Britain, France, the Soviet Union and China, but their veto rights are not applied in deciding on whether to accept a formal agenda item.

The current nonpermanent members are Japan, West Germany, Italy, Argentina, Brazil, Nepal, Senegal, Algeria, Zambia and Yugoslavia.

If the security members agree to discuss the North Korean sabotage as a formal agenda item, according to a Korean official at the United Nations, a session is expected to convene around Feb. 16.

The South Korean Government's request is in accordance with Article 35-2 of the U.N. Charter that stipulates, the state which is not a member of the United Nations may bring to the attention of the Security Council or of the General Assembly any dispute to which it is a party...

Since a woman suspect confessed on Jan. 15 that she was a North Korean agent and had planted a time bomb aboard KAL Flight 858 in order to disrupt the 1988 Seoul Summer Olympics under the direct orders of Kim Chong-il, son and heir-apparent of North Korean leader Kim Il-song, 60 countries have issued statements censuring the communist country and nine have taken punitive steps.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Fiji have severed their diplomatic ties with Pyongyang while Liberia has suspended all contacts with North Korea, a step considered to have the same effect as breaking ties.

The 26-year-old North Korean agent was extradited to Seoul last December 15 from Bahrain where she was stopped by authorities along with her male companion, who committed suicide while awaiting investigation at the Manama airport, for carrying a forged Japanese passport and suspected in the Nov. 29 sabotage of the ill-fated airplane. Flight 858, which originated in Baghdad, Iraq, stopped in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, but later vanished over the Andaman Sea near Burma before a scheduled refueling stop in Bangkok, en route to Seoul.

The woman also later confessed that a Japanese woman, believed to have been kidnapped and taken to North Korea, had taught her the Japanese language during espionage training in the North, adding that she saw other Japanese forcefully brought into the communist country.

Pyongyang To Give Olympics Answer in March
SK110942 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
11 Feb 88 p 12

[Text] Tokyo (REUTER)—International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch said Pyongyang would give a final answer on participating in the Seoul Olympics next month, YOMIURI SHIMBUN reported on Wednesday.

Samaranch, interviewed by the Japanese newspaper at the Calgary Winter Olympics, said North Korean Olympic Committee chairman Kim Yu-sun told him he would negotiate with South Korea later this month and promised a final answer next month.

Samaranch left open the possibility North Korea could join the Olympics despite passage of the January 17 deadline.

Nakasone Offers Help To Improve PRC Ties
OW110533 Tokyo KYODO in English 0457 GMT
11 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 11 KYODO—Former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone met South Korean President-elect No Tae-u at his office Thursday and pledged his full support for a terrorism-free Seoul Olympics this year.

During the 45-minute meeting, No said he would like to discuss how to prevent acts of terrorism during the games with Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita later this month, Nakasone told reporters.

Takeshita, who succeeded Nakasone last November, will visit Seoul to attend the February 25 inaugural ceremonies for No, who will succeed Chon Tu-hwan.

Nakasone arrived in Seoul Wednesday for a three-day visit at Chon's invitation.

The two governments are to inaugurate a working-level liaison council to discuss the prevention of terrorist acts this month after the Nakasone-No meeting.

The council is being set up in the wake of North Korea's alleged bombing of a Korean Air (KAL) plane with 115 people on board last November.

The establishment of such a council was proposed by No when he met Michio Watanabe, chairman of the Policy Affairs Research Council of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, in Seoul last month.

No told Nakasone Thursday his administration will continue dialogue with North Korea in spite of the alleged North Korean destruction of the KAL plane.

He also said his government will carry out democratic reforms as he pledged during the presidential election campaign last year.

Nakasone said he offered his services to No in improving relations between South Korea and China, saying Japan has many Chinese friends. No's reaction to Nakasone's proposal is not known.

At a meeting with Nakasone Wednesday, the outgoing President Chon said South Korea is exerting efforts to become more friendly with China and Nakasone pledged his cooperation on the matter.

Nakasone is scheduled to make a foreign policy speech in Seoul later Thursday and return to Tokyo on Friday.

Chon Addresses Advisory Council Committees
SK110307 Seoul YONHAP in English
0300 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 11 (YONHAP)—Korean President Chon Tu-hwan Thursday called on the nation to be prepared to take the initiative in the negotiations for unifying the two divided sides of the Korean peninsula, but he said that the first one or two years after the Seoul Olympics will be a major watershed in the nation's history leading to national reunification.

Chon made the remarks in a statement delivered at a joint meeting of the steering and standing committees of the Presidential Advisory Council on Peaceful Unification Policy held in Seoul earlier that day.

The chief executive said, the nation, despite North Korea's long-held ambition to unify the peninsula under its communist terms and its anti-national activities, is now clearly sensing the approaching time for national reconciliation and peaceful reunification.

While noting that the North Korean communists are facing a situation in which they can no longer overcome the difficulties stemming from the contradictions inherent in their hereditary transition of power, economic

failures and isolation from the international arena, Chon emphasized that the South Korean people should strengthen their readiness to lead the talks on national reunification as well as maintain their alertness for a possible attempt by the North to stage a desperate provocation.

He said he was confident that the prospects for peaceful reunification will be brighter in the early 1990s when the national economy will reach an advanced level of prosperity.

Reconciliation Panel Prepares Recommendations
SK110147 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
11 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] A subpanel of the Democratization and Reconciliation Council yesterday decided to recommend that the present or next President apologize for the Kwangju incident as part of the way to solve the troubling problem.

Chang Tok-chin, vice chairman of the Kwangju subpanel, summing up the weeks of debate on the sensitive issue, said, "The government should make apology for the Kwangju incident as it became clear that there was excessive military action causing a heavy death toll."

"It will hopefully be done either by the incumbent President or the next president after his inauguration," he said.

Earlier, ex-martial law commander Yi Hui-song and Lt. Gen. So Chon-yol, ret., Kwangju martial law commander in May 1980, admitted excesses in military action against the popular uprising.

Chang, former agriculture-fisheries minister, concluded that the Kwangju incident should be regarded as a "democratic movement," replacing the government definition of it as "sedition."

He viewed that it would be necessary for the government to receive reports on the dead and the injured again through a relevant agency, either governmental or private, to confirm the actual number of victims.

An official figure gives the number of casualties at 198 while dissidents estimate it at well over 1,000.

Upon the formation of a new legislature, he said, it should as a matter of urgency establish a legal basis for compensation for the injured victims and bereaved families.

The Mangwol-dong, Kwangju, cemetery for the fatal victims should be beautified and maintained from the government budget.

The management of a children's park in Kwangju, built largely with public donations in support of the Kwangju protesters, should be handed over to associations of the victims, he maintained.

Pak Ok-chae, representative of the injured, alleged that the Kwangju authorities diverted the donations, sent from local religious circles and from abroad, for other purposes.

Chang, however, combatted assertions by some council members and Kwangju citizens that military officers involved in the bloodshed should stand trial.

"After the government apology, restoration of the victims' positions and due compensation, we have to pardon them," he said, adding that both the protesters and military officers should share responsibility.

Poet So Chong-chu opined that the incident should be called "resistance by students and citizens" rather than a "democratic movement."

The panel will begin composing a formal recommendation on the solution to bitter case today, to be forwarded to president-elect No Tae-u. No has pledged that his administration will carry out whatever package of measures is recommended by the council.

RDP, PPD Negotiators Meet To Discuss Merger
SK110231 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
11 Feb 88 pp 1, 3

[Text] Negotiators of the Reunification Democracy Party and the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] will meet today to discuss a merger.

While the meeting, the first since the PPD broke away last November, signals an intensification of efforts to integrate the shattered opposition, it is feared to further delay party-to-party negotiations on revision of the parliamentary election law.

The RDP inaugurated a committee to promote unity among the opposition and decided to defer negotiations on revision for the time being, an action likely to frustrate the ruling Democratic Justice Party, which seeks early settlement.

The RDP hinted at the possibility of changing its support for plural-member districts to single-member districts, which are favored by the PPD.

Today's meeting between the RDP and PPD, agreed upon between top RDP negotiator Kim Chae-kwang and his PPD counterpart, Yi Chung-chae, is seen as the first positive step in the direction toward integration.

It was proposed by the newly appointed seven-member RDP negotiating mission, which pledged best efforts to follow the will of Kim Yong-sam who resigned Monday.

The two top negotiators yesterday met over lunch, conveying the atmosphere inside each other's party.

The two agreed that lawmakers of the two parties should hold a joint meeting as soon as possible to discuss integrating the opposition.

The topic will be raised at today's meeting of the negotiators.

In a related move, PPD president Kim Tae-chung has reportedly proposed a meeting with Kim Yong-sam to discuss a merger between the PPD and the RDP. But it could not be confirmed whether the former RDP president has accepted the proposal.

Earlier in the day, acting RDP president Kim Myong-yon announced committee members, including Choe Hyong-u, Kim Tong-yong, Kim Su-hwan, Hwang Myong-su, Pak Chong-yol and Kim Chung-kil.

The corresponding PPD panel, which was formed Tuesday, includes Pak Yong-suk, Yi Sang-su, Mun Tong-hwan and Choe Yong-kon.

At its first meeting, the RDP committee decided to pour all its energy into pushing ahead with integration. While promoting a merger with the PPD, the committee will also seek contacts with other minor opposition parties and independent factions for merger or absorption.

After the meeting, spokesman Kim Tae-yong said the RDP will embrace "all opposition groups which have been and are against the present military regime."

He said as the new committee was given virtually full party power, its request for a halt to the negotiations on the parliamentary election law revision amounts to a party decision.

With this decision, the RDP has linked the issue of opposition integration with the revision negotiations, heightening the possibility of the negotiations being stalemated in the whirlwind of integration.

But the ruling DJP has expressed its intention, though not explicitly, to pass its own revision bill through the National Assembly during the just-opened extraordinary session if it fails to reach an agreement with the opposition.

Clearly aware of such a DJP move, the PPD yesterday proposed a full congress of lawmakers to jointly thwart a possible DJP attempt in that direction.

Cho Se-hyon, spokesman of the PPD panel to promote opposition reunification, said since time is running short for the DJP, the most urgent task for the opposition is to stop it forcing its bill through the Assembly.

The six-members PPD panel also decided to immediately contact the RDP and other opposition forces to achieve integration at an early date.

It reconfirmed its position that merger with the RDP should be promoted with the inclusion of dissident opposition groups and that the RDP should adopt a complete single-member district format first.

At a full meeting of lawmakers later in the day, the prevailing view was that the single-member format should be pushed through at any cost.

RDP Suspends Negotiations on Constituency
SK110205 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
11 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] The National Assembly opened for a six-day extraordinary session yesterday in a bid to rewrite the Parliamentary Election Law and set rules for local autonomy.

Also on the agenda are current issues such as U.S. pressure to open the domestic market, price rises and mushrooming felonious crimes.

The floor leaders of the three key parties with over 20 House seats agreed to handle the legislation in a full-dress sitting after three days of panel sessions.

In an opening statement, Assembly Speaker Yi Chae-hyong urged lawmakers to pass an amendment bill to the election law during the session as the rival parties have earlier shared an identical view on the deadline.

"We have no time to idle away when we take into account tight schedules for government transfer, parliamentary elections and, particularly, the balloting for local councils for the first time in 36 years," he said.

The chance of settling the revision issue appeared slimmer with the opposition parties fully engrossed in a merger attempt following Kim Yong-sam's sudden resignation as RDP head Monday.

The Reunification Democratic Party yesterday decided to suspend negotiations on a constituency system, the core of the interpartisan deal, "for the time being," giving higher priority to the sought-after opposition unity.

Kim Tae-chung's Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] also resolved in a caucus to employ "all means" to prevent the Democratic Justice Party from putting its unique constituency formula through the parliament by means of its majority vote.

The ruling DJP warned that it would railroad its bill in case of failure in seeking a compromise on the constituency system in the sluggish DJP-RDP, DJP-PPD sessions.

Optimists in the government party foresaw that the largest opposition RDP will come closer towards the DJP idea, given a bold offer of sharply increasing the number of medium-scale constituencies.

The DJP proposed a cut in the number of small districts electing only one lawmaker to 90 and a raise in the number of medium districts electing two to 80, in talks with the RDP Tuesday.

It may further lower the number of small districts to about 40 in a final attempt for compromise, DJP sources said.

If it is declined, the government party is likely to put forward an alternative option, similar to the present system under which two are chosen from each of 92 districts, for a vote to be participated in by both DJP and opposition lawmakers.

Profiles of Appointees in No Administration

Prime Minister-designate Yi
SK110641 Seoul YONHAP in English
0612 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 11 (YONHAP)—Yi Hyon-chae, 59, designated Thursday as prime minister to serve in the incoming government of President-elect No Tae-u, is a former president of South Korea's most prestigious university—Seoul National University (SNU). Yi is known for rejecting a government call for harsher punishment of student activists in 1985 and for resigning his SNU presidency that year.

Admired for his management of the nation's largest institution of higher education, Yi will serve as prime minister in the first government to be formed as a result of the first peaceful change of government in Korean history.

Born in Hongsong, South Chungchong Province, in 1929, Yi graduated from the College of Commerce at Seoul National University and began his teaching career in 1958 at Pusan National University. He joined the faculty of his alma mater in 1961.

Yi began his career with the SNU administration in 1969 as the youngest dean of students in the history of Seoul National University.

Before assuming the university presidency in 1983, he served as vice president and worked for three years on the school's long-term development plan.

Yi, the father of three sons and one daughter, resigned as president of Seoul National University in 1985 rejecting a government call for harsher punishment of seven students indicted for their involvement in the occupation of the U.S. Cultural Center in downtown Seoul.

As the incoming prime minister, Yi faces a host of political tasks relating to democratization but his performance remains difficult to predict because of his lack of political experience.

Presidential Secretary Hong
SK110627 Seoul YONHAP in English
0606 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 11 (YONHAP)—Hong Song-chol, designated Thursday as chief presidential secretary to No Tae-u who will be inaugurated as South Korea's next president on Feb. 25, will be returning to government service in the Blue House (presidential residence) after an absence of 15 years.

Hong served three years as a secretary in charge of political affairs under then President Pak Chong-hui.

After leaving the presidential residence in 1973, the 62-year-old retired marine colonel was appointed minister of home affairs, but his tenure in that post lasted less than a full year due to the North Korean-sponsored assassination of then First Lady Yuk Yong-su on Aug. 15, 1974.

Hong's appointment in 1978 as health-social affairs minister ended in 1979 in the wake of President Pak's assassination in October that year.

After graduating from Seoul National University's College of Commerce in 1950, the year the Korean War broke out, Hong joined the Marine Corps as an officer and was promoted to the rank of colonel before his retirement in 1962.

He also served as a political counselor and minister at the Korean embassy in the United States between 1962-1966.

After his overseas diplomatic service, Hong was named a chief secretary to the prime minister in 1970 before joining the Blue House staff.

Hong was born in 1926 in Uillyul, now a town in southwestern province in North Korea. He visited North Korea in 1986 as head of a South Korean delegation for a reunion of families on the divided peninsula.

Burma

French Transport Minister, Delegation Arrive
*BK101426 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 10 Feb 88*

[Text] Mr Jacques Douffiagues, French minister of transport, and members of his entourage who are in Rangoon at the invitation of the Government of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma, in the company of Mr Georges Sidre, French ambassador to Burma, called on Thura U Tun Tin, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and finance, at the Office of the Council of Ministers at 1600 today.

Also present at the meeting were Thura U Saw Pru, minister of transport and communications; U Kyaw Myint and U Nyunt Maung, deputy ministers of planning and finance; and U Soe Thwin, director general of Foreign Economic Relations Department.

Later, the visiting minister and members of his delegation called on Minister Thura U Saw Pru at the latter's office. Present on the occasion were U Tin Maung and U Tin Tun, deputy ministers of transport and communications.

The French minister and a six-member delegation flew in to Rangoon this afternoon and were welcomed at Rangoon Airport by Minister Thura U Saw Pru and Deputy Ministers U Tin Maung and U Tin Tun, the French ambassador to Burma, and responsible officials.

Trade Minister, Delegation Return From India
*BK101440 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 10 Feb 88*

[Text] A Burmese trade delegation headed by U Khin Maung Gyi, minister of trade, which visited India to discuss the development of bilateral trade at the invitation of India returned to Rangoon via Singapore this afternoon.

The trade delegation was welcomed at Rangoon Airport by U Ye Gaung, minister of foreign affairs; U Tun Way, minister of health; U Than Hlaing, minister of cooperatives; Major General Myint Lwin, minister of construction; U Yan Naung Soe and Colonel Tin Gyi, deputy ministers of trade; Dr Maung Di, deputy minister of education; Dr Indu Prakash Singh, Indian ambassador to Burma; and responsible officials of the Ministry of Trade.

Members of the Burmese trade delegation also returned together with U Khin Maung Gyi. The delegation left Burma for India on 23 January.

VOPB Blames Country's Woes on 'Civil War'
*(Clandestine) Voice of the People of Burma
in Burmese 1200 GMT 9 Feb 88*

[Unattributed "article": "The 40-year History of Civil War Reveals Who Is Waging a Just War"]

[Text] The civil war in Burma will soon be 40 years old. Innocent people have lost their lives and property while the state has also lost its wealth and its treasured children in this civil war. Who then started this evil civil war? It was not the Burma Communist Party [BCP] and other revolutionary forces, but the reactionary government which negotiated with imperialism to usurp power. The BCP organized the people, founded the armed People's Army, and waged a revolutionary war only to preserve itself. The civil war was started by the reactionary AFPFL [Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League] government, and successive reactionary governments that later assumed power inherited the civil war.

Not long ago, on 5 November 1987, foreign attaches and local and foreign newsmen were invited to Pa-an, and the so-called director of intelligence, while making false propaganda statements about the military government's offensives and the progress of democracy in Karen State and the region's development under the economic guidance of the BSPP [Burma Socialist Program Party], boasted that the Burmese Army will completely wipe out the Karen insurgency in 2 years.

In fact, this is not the first time that such a claim has been made; previous reactionary governments made similar boasts. Large-scale offensives, each in their own style, were launched by them, but in the same way as the "(Aung Marga) Operation" failed to achieve its objective, the military government's "Min Yan Aung Operation" failed to eliminate insurgency. It was only the mercenary soldiers who suffered the most casualties. Between 13 November 1979 and the end of 1980, while the "Min Yan Aung Operation" was under way, the enemy suffered 1,085 dead and 3,548 wounded. Together with the number of defectors and those taken prisoner, a total of 5,900 enemy soldiers were put out of action. At the time, the military government kept the people in the dark and nothing was reported about it. [passage indistinct] The 40-year history of civil war is a testimony to the fact that complete annihilation of insurgency is impossible.

Why then does the war continue? The military clique may shamelessly claim that it is waging a just war, but the truth is that the civil war is actually an extension of reactionary politics. The military government became strong and won power amidst the civil war, and its members became rich. Hence, it will continue to wage the civil war in a frenzied manner to prolong its rule. The main objective of the military government in perpetrating the civil war is to retain its rule and to ensure that the top bosses of the military clique reap benefits.

The military government always claims that insurgent saboteurs are the reason for the failure of the present economic plans, the declining economy, the soaring prices, and for the worsening black market economy. Since the civil war has continued under successive reactionary governments, the state economy under them, including the present military government, has faced bankruptcy. The situation under Ne Win and his cohorts is the worst though. The truth is that they place blame elsewhere to cover up their erroneous line and policies. It is like trying to hide a dead elephant by covering it with a goat skin. The problems arose from their pursuance of monopoly bureaucrat capitalism.

The situation worsened under the military government because it has poured all available state funds, manpower, resources, and capital into waging the civil war. Three new army divisions were formed in 7 years, in other words, a division was formed every 1 and 1/2 years. According to the figures released by the military government itself, defense expenditures exceed total expenditures for the health and the education sectors. Expenditures allocated directly for war purposes constitute about 25% of the total budget. The amount would rise to about one-third of the entire budget if the hidden war expenses listed under ministerial expenditures were to be included.

The military government is determined to frenziedly continue the civil war whatever the cost may be. Today, even while the country is experiencing bankruptcy and foreign exchange reserves are declining with time, almost all available foreign exchange reserves are being used for the Defense Ministry alone. It is not only in terms of wealth that the military government is prepared to sacrifice, it will also have no qualms about sacrificing the lives of the people and low ranking officers and soldiers. As surely as it can be stated with certainty that the insurgents are not the ones who made the country as bankrupt as it is today, it can also be said with certainty that finding a way out of its troubles by intensifying the civil war is definitely a low-down, evil act of the military government. The military government makes use of the people and the low-ranking officers and soldiers as a shield to protect its throne. Contrary to what the military government is saying, the country's economy is getting worse and the people face greater hardships with time because of the civil war.

In recruiting new soldiers, the military government announces that every young patriotic person should join the defense force.

Young people who join the defense force are not showing their love for country but are dragging it further down, right into the flames of civil war. While these young people lose their lives and limbs, the military clique becomes richer and more prosperous. It can be stated with a definite certainty that the military clique, which gained power and became prosperous because of the civil war, will frenziedly continue to wage the civil war.

Why do the revolutionary forces and the base areas continue to survive despite such frenzied efforts by the military clique? How do the revolutionary forces stand firmly in the face of an enemy with vastly superior fire power, manpower, and [words indistinct]? The sole answer to the questions is: because the revolutionary forces are able to wage a people's war by relying on and getting the support of the masses.

How can the revolutionary forces survive like they do today if, according to the military government's propaganda, the people oppose them and the military government is continuously attacking them and forcing them to take refuge at remote border areas. Contrary to what the military government has said, the fact is the military government is waging a reactionary civil war and all the revolutionary forces are waging a just revolutionary war.

Today, while the BSPP authorities build new houses, people walk on the roads. Who are the people taking joy rides in luxury cars and going abroad at will for medical treatment? They are the top bosses of the military clique, ministers, and deputy ministers. Low-ranking officers and soldiers meanwhile lose their lives, live in hardship, and starve in the remote forested areas for these people. While the low-ranking soldiers are the frontline, their dependents have to resort to all means to earn some money to settle debts because they cannot make ends meet with the income [words indistinct].

The top bosses of the military clique, the ministers, and the deputy ministers meanwhile enjoy (?good salaries) and privileges, and lead a luxurious life. They can freely purchase anything they want at cheap prices from the diplomatic shop and [names indistinct] stores. They enrich themselves by reselling the goods from these shops. [passage indistinct]

Meanwhile, like draft animals or servants, low-ranking officers and soldiers have to work obediently [words indistinct]. They are at the mercy of the whims of the high-ranking officers whom they have (?to please). At times, when there are uprisings by the people who can no longer stand the impoverished conditions, these low-ranking soldiers become the henchmen (?in suppressing the people mercilessly). People's hatred for the mercenary army is therefore growing.

People today are starving and living in poverty. The people were victimized by two demonetizations in the past 2 years. Although the excuse was that the moves were aimed at insurgents and the greedy ones, it was the vendors, storekeepers, traders, and salaried workers who suffered. Quite blatantly, the military government refused to give any refund for the demonetized notes. Today, the common enemy of all the people, including the mercenary army, is the Ne Win-San Yu military clique.

It is only under the military government that the price of a can of baby milk powder has risen to 200 kyat, 1 pyi of rice to 20 kyat, [words indistinct] to 2 kyat, and beef and fish to some 60 kyat. [passage indistinct].

The military government has pleaded with the United Nations to list the country as a least developed country while foreign debts have risen to some U.S.\$3.7 billion—the highest ever in the post-war period since independence. These are all the bad consequences of a civil war. If we are to free ourselves from such consequences, we must topple the military government and bring the civil war to an end, and to do this, we must turn the gun on the military government.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

'Snag' in Plan To Set up New Malay Party
BK101417 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
1343 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb 10 (BERNAMA)—The move by a group of former UMNO [United Malays National Organization] leaders to set up a new party for the Malays, (a major ethnic group in the multi-racial country) as Pertubuhan Kebangsaan Melayu Bersatu Malaysia or UMNO Malaysia, has apparently hit a snag.

According to several legal experts in the Societies Act, the registration of a new party whose name is the same or similar to UMNO which has been ruled an unlawful society by the High Court on Feb 4, can only be considered after the name UMNO has been deleted from the Register of Societies by the registrar.

"At present, there has been no announcement by the registrar that UMNO has been de-registered," a lawyer said.

"In deciding on the de-registration of the party, the registrar has to take cognizance of the High Court ruling. An application to re-register UMNO or register a new party with almost the same name is considered premature at this time," he added.

Apart from the group apparently jumping the gun from the legal aspect, its solidity appears to be showing signs of a crack.

Only two days after the announcement of the initiative to form the proposed party, several leaders reported to support the move have denied their involvement.

They include former Prime Minister Hussein Onn, former Deputy Primary Industries Minister Radzi Sheikh Ahmad and former Deputy Transport Minister Hajah Rahmah Osman.

They were mentioned as being the pro tem deputy president, a pro tem committee member and pro tem deputy permanent chairman.

Radzi is now making efforts to withdraw his name from the pro tem committee list which has been submitted to the registrar of societies together with the application for registration.

Several former UMNO stalwarts not involved in the move believe although the group assert they are trying to revive UMNO, they will not get the support of former party members.

This was because any move towards this end would only be accepted if it came from the leadership elected at the April 24 party general assembly last year even though technically speaking, the election is void.

In the present situation, the support pouring in for the prime minister through either telegrams or public statements by not only former UMNO leaders and members but organisations and trade unions as well, was more than enough indication of the wish of all Malaysians, particularly the Malays.

Several other veteran leaders advised the group to forget their aspiration and take cognizance of Dr Mahathir's recent statement that the developments should be made a lesson on the calamity that would befall the Malays if they were in disarray.

The prime minister had given an assurance that the leadership would not remain idle in facing the problem but strive to resolve it through legitimate means.

At a news conference last Friday, Dr Mahathir had said he had several options for overcoming the problem and promised to announce them when the time came.

He had also advised former UMNO members to be patient.

Under the present circumstances, according to several local political analysts, the question of the existing government leadership remaining idle as claimed by certain quarters does not arise at all.

According to them, in any political move, a good politician of integrity will not act hastily. Each step taken must have been planned carefully and be the right move.

They believe this is exactly what Dr Mahathir is doing.

Sabah Government Voices Support for Mahathir
BK110729 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0713 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, Feb 11(OANA-BER-NAMA)—The east Malaysian Sabah State government supports Dr Mahathir Mohamed as prime minister, no

matter what happens, Sabah chief minister Joseph Pairin Kitingan said Thursday. He said Dr Mahathir had been chosen to head the Malaysian Government which was democratically and constitutionally formed.

The federal government was a legitimate government and "we support all policies made by it", he added at a briefing for Sabah assemblymen, MPs and senators at his official residence here.

Those present signed a letter pledging support for Dr Mahathir.

Pairin urged all quarters to be calm in the face of the situation resulting from the recent Kuala Lumpur High Court ruling that UMNO [United Malays National Organization], the dominant partner of the ruling national front (Barisan Nasional), is an unlawful society.

He said the state Barisan Nasional committee which met Wednesday had pledged support for Dr Mahathir.

Minister on News Agency Finance Problems
BK110705 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0527 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb 11 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Information Minister Mohamed Rahmat said Thursday the national news agency, BERNAMA, is now facing financial problems, and attributed this to an over-zealousness to achieve financial self-reliance as well as failure to observe good management practices.

Although BERNAMA's aspiration to be a financially independent corporate-oriented body was good to avoid over-dependence on the government, the efforts undertaken should be within the bounds of good management and realistic projections, he added.

Addressing the loyalty day assembly of BERNAMA staff at Wisma Bernama here, the minister remarked that BERNAMA's weakness, particularly from the financial aspect, was caused by it bypassing sound management considerations in its preoccupation to make profits.

Mohamed said BERNAMA had launched several new services without first undertaking a comprehensive market survey, and had been remiss in acting on unrealistic projections and failing to consider the costs.

"BERNAMA had also failed to carry out a realistic evaluation to rectify the existing shortcomings," he added.

If these weaknesses had resulted from lack of trustworthiness and discipline among the staff, he wanted the appropriate action taken against those involved so BERNAMA would achieve success in its endeavours.

Mohamed said BERNAMA had the potential of becoming a strong and effective national news agency that had the capacity to be financially self-reliant.

In working to attain this objective, he reminded the staff that the true role of BERNAMA was as enunciated in the Bernama Act.

"BERNAMA's primary function is to report and disseminate news and all other activities are only support services for the discharge of this primary function," he stressed.

He also reminded BERNAMA it had a specific responsibility to the country and people and among its key tasks were to foster communal relations and understanding and to help the people know their country better.

Travelers Still Unable To 'Freely' Visit PRC
BK101526 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay
1430 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] The government still cannot afford to allow Malaysians to freely visit the PRC because such visits could undermine nation-building efforts. Outgoing Secretary General of the Foreign Affairs Ministry Tan Sri Zainal Abidin Zulon said, however, that those who want to travel to that country for medical treatment or business are allowed to do so. Similar to other Southeast Asian countries, the government has to take two things into consideration, namely the communist threat and multiracial society. The country is still fighting the Communist Party of Malaya [CPM] and the PRC has not yet directly told Malaysia that it no longer supports the CPM. The PRC Government has thus far failed to renounce its support for the CPM.

Tan Sri Zainal Abidin added that Overseas Chinese currently visiting the PRC are given special treatment, including cheap air tickets and accommodation. Malaysia still cannot afford to allow the free flow of travel. The danger is not caused by the communist threat, but the free flow of travel will in the long run undermine the nation-building efforts.

Cambodia

Che Soth Receives Hungarian Ambassador
BK110245 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0412 GMT
11 Feb 88

[Text] Phnom Penh, 11 Feb (SPK)—Chea Soth, member of the Political Bureau of the KPRP Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, on Wednesday received in Phnom Penh Lajos Karsai, ambassador of the Hungarian People's Republic to Cambodia.

On this occasion, the Hungarian diplomat briefed Chea Soth on his country's socio-economic redeployment program.

Lajos Karsai said he is happy to note that the relations of friendship and multiform cooperation between Hungary and Cambodia have further developed and affirmed his government's support for the PRK at every international forum.

For his part, the Cambodian leader highly appreciated the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He termed the socio-economic redeployment program in Hungary a new step toward social progress.

On the current situation in Cambodia, Chea Soth stressed that the path toward a political solution to the Cambodian problem is up against many difficulties due to the fact that other opposing Cambodian factions have not yet agreed to sit at the negotiating table.

Khieu Samphan Cited on Sihanouk Talks
BK110702 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0500 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] The leader of the Democratic Kampuchean party said yesterday he firmly believed that Samdech Norodom Sihanouk will resume his position as head of the Cambodian coalition government soon.

Khieu Samphan left Beijing yesterday after having talks with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk for 3 days in an effort to ask the samdech to agree to stay on as head of the Cambodian coalition government. Khieu Samphan was quoted as saying that he agrees with the main points relating to the Cambodian problem, such as that the problem should be resolved peacefully and politically.

Sihanouk Asked To Continue as President
BK110956 Hong Kong AFP in English 0930 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Bangkok, Feb 11 (AFP)—The Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK) said Thursday that it continues to consider Prince Norodom Sihanouk as its leader despite his resignation as head of the Cambodian resistance.

The three Cambodian resistance factions that make up the CGDK made the announcement in a communique released here Thursday after a meeting of the CGDK Council of Ministers at an undisclosed location Wednesday.

The communique said that participants in the meeting had "expressed hopes and conviction that (Prince Sihanouk) would very soon resume his function as president" of the CGDK.

It added that the Council of Ministers continued "to respect and consider him as the president of Democratic Kampuchea."

The CGDK, founded in 1982 and comprising the Khmer Rouge, the Khmer People's Liberation Front (KPNLF) and Prince Sihanouk's followers, is recognized by the United Nations as the legitimate government of Cambodia.

Its meeting, believed to have been held at a resistance camp near the Thai border, was the first since Prince Sihanouk announced on January 30 that he was resigning as president of the coalition.

The prince had expressed displeasure at a lack of support from his partners in the coalition for peace talks he initiated in France in early December with Prime Minister Hun Sen of the pro-Vietnamese government in Phnom Penh.

The communique failed to make any reference to the peace talks but described Prince Sihanouk as "a great patriot and a well-known Khmer leader who has every important role to play in the current struggle to compel Vietnam to withdraw its troops from Cambodia."

The meeting of the Council of Ministers was held under the presidency of CGDK Premier Son Sann and attended by Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan and Prince Norodom Rannarit, representing his father Prince Sihanouk.

The communique said Mr Khieu Samphan had reported on his recent meeting in Beijing with Prince Sihanouk. The Council of Ministers, comprising eight ministers in addition to the three leaders, "was satisfied with the results of that meeting," it added.

The communique said the meeting "proceeded in a warm atmosphere of solidarity, unity and cordiality," with the participants expressing determination "to intensify the common struggle for national liberation on the battlefields and on the international arena."

The CGDK fields some 50,000 Chinese-armed guerrillas against an estimated 140,000 Vietnamese troops stationed in Cambodia since late 1978 to prop up a client regime in Phnom Penh.

Sihanouk-Khieu Samphan Meeting Assessed
BK110219 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Feb 88 p 3

[by Jacques Bekaert]

[Text] Mystery surrounds a possible move by the Khmer Rouge to offer political concessions in the interest of a true political settlement in Kampuchea. The meeting last Sunday in Beijing between Prince Sihanouk and Khieu Samphan, the deputy president in charge of Foreign Affairs of Democratic Kampuchea appears to have produced at least some results.

after being briefed by Prince Sihanouk on recent events, including his last meeting in France with Phnom Penh leader Hun Sen, Khieu Samphan is reported to have shown a keen interest in some of the prince's latest proposals.

Mr Khieu Samphan explained that he needed to further consult the party of Democratic Kampuchea (the Khmer Rouge) before giving any firm response, but said he found "good" Sihanouk's idea of a quadripartite Provisional Government.

Such a government which would include the three factions of the coalition and the pro-Vietnamese People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea (PRPK) should be formed at the time of the last phase of a "total and real" withdrawal of the Vietnamese troops now in Kampuchea.

Mr Khieu Samphan also approved the dismantling of the People's Republic of Kampuchea (the pro-Vietnamese PRK) before the formation of the Provisional Government, a move which provided few surprises and had been long anticipated.

But what was also discussed in Beijing was the fact that "Democratic Kampuchea," the entity presently recognised by the United Nations and of which Prince Sihanouk was until last month the President (although on leave), would be dissolved on the eve of the formation of the Provisional Government.

The task of the Provisional Government regrouping the various Khmer factions would be to prepare for general elections under international control. The resulting Assembly would then decide on the name of the country, its political regime and economic system.

Sihanouk informed his guest that he needed some time to consider the appeal made by Khieu Samphan in the name of the "leadership, cadres, people and soldiers" of the party of Democratic Kampuchea for the Prince to resume his presidency.

He admits himself that "many important questions remain to be solved" between himself and the Khmer Rouge. One of these is the structure of the future Kampuchean army. Sihanouk believes the best solution is a quadripartite army, with quadripartite general staff and quadripartite ministry of defence. The Khmer Rouge favour a unified army. A good idea in theory, says Sihanouk, but maybe not the best solution in the Kampuchean context.

The recent visit of Khieu Samphan to Beijing was at least partially successful. A friendly contact still exists between Sihanouk and the major military force of the resistance. The main point of tension within the coalition being now between the Prince and Mr Son Sann, the prime minister of Democratic Kampuchea and the president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

At this point it looks as though Sihanouk is involved with two different sets of talks: one with his former partners of the Coalition Government, another with Phnom Penh and, maybe, Vietnam.

Prince Sihanouk will probably see Mr Khieu Samphan again in June and July. When he will resume his talks with Mr Hun Sen or with a Vietnamese official depends now very much on Hanoi's attitude.

Vietnam is said to prefer not to enter the negotiating game until a full agreement has been reached between the various Khmer groups. Prince Sihanouk is reportedly convinced that the process could go much further if he could talk directly with Hanoi.

VODK Rounds Up January Village Attacks
BK110457 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Station commentary: "Our National Army Throughout the Country Is Excelling at Attacking the Vietnamese Enemy's Villages To Achieve Its Plan More Vigorously"]

[Text] In this 10th dry season, firmly grasping the new directive of the DK National Army Supreme Command and the plan of their respective units, our National Army throughout the country has made efforts to take the initiative in attacking the Vietnamese enemy's villages more vigorously.

On the battlefield inside Cambodia, our National Army has enthusiastically excelled at better implementing the plan to attack two and three villages to repeatedly dismantle Vietnamese administrative networks in many villages and communes and liberated increasing numbers of our villages and communes from the Vietnamese enemy. In January, throughout the country, we attacked and dismantled Vietnamese administrative networks in 567 villages, 34 communes, 5 townships, and 2 districts. The battlefields on which most villages have been vigorously attacked are the Kompong Thom battlefield, where 77 villages and 3 communes were attacked, and the Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey battlefield where 65 villages and a commune were attacked.

On these two battlefields, our National Army did well to promote the three-element force, particularly by relying on the people and by actively and repeatedly attacking villages making it impossible for the Vietnamese to stay. At the same time, we also liberated a greater number of village and commune officials, who had been forced to serve the Vietnamese enemy, and freed them from the occupation yoke and draft of the Vietnamese enemy.

On the northeast-eastern battlefield and the southwest battlefield, the Vietnamese enemy's villages have been vigorously attacked: 70 villages and 7 communes on the northeast-eastern battlefield, and 68 villages and 4 communes on the southwest battlefield. Conditions on these two battlefields are difficult on the one hand because

they are close to the Vietnamese border and the Vietnamese den and are far away from our supply sources. However, firmly believing and relying on the people's forces and closely cooperating with our people in every locality, our National Army has gradually improved the two- and three-villages attacks, increased our strength tenfold, and dried up the Vietnamese enemy's pools, that is dried up the sources of Vietnamese forces and supplies in increasing numbers of villages and communes.

On the battlefield around Phnom Penh, our National Army has more actively launched two- and three-villages attacks: 31 Vietnamese villages southwest of Phnom Penh; 25 villages north of Phnom Penh; 23 villages and 5 communes, and a district, northwest of Phnom Penh; and 18 villages, 4 communes, and a township, east of Phnom Penh. Altogether, in January, we attacked 98 villages and 9 communes around Phnom Penh.

On the Moun-Pursat, Kompong Cham, around Battambang town, Kompong Chhnang, Koh Kong-Kompong Som, and north Sisophon battlefields, our National Army is also striving to repeatedly attack Vietnamese villages vigorously and enthusiastically.

In sum, on every battlefield throughout the country, both inside the country and along the border, our National Army is excelling at vigorously attacking two and three of the Vietnamese enemy's villages in accordance with its monthly plan and blocking the Vietnamese enemy everywhere. We have transformed a greater number of villages and communes in our vast rural areas into dismantled and liberated villages. Along with this, our National Army has also urged our people to observe well the three things not to do: Do not let the Vietnamese enemy plunder supplies, paddy and rice in particular; do not let the Vietnamese draft family members serve as Cambodian administrative officials and soldiers; and do not let the Vietnamese enemy round up people for the K-5 plan. The fact that we successfully follow these lines has cut off all kinds of supply sources, in terms of economics and manpower, of the Vietnamese enemy in villages. This has further deteriorated and shaken the Vietnamese bases on the battlefield of aggression in Cambodia. The Vietnamese have faced more difficulties and are increasingly bogged down and panicky.

As for us, we have steadily moved forward and have increased and expanded our forces. Based on these successive victories, our National Army throughout the country pledges to increase the attacks against two and three villages more actively to completely fulfill the monthly targets and further strengthen our struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors until complete victory, namely chasing out the Vietnamese enemy aggressors from our Cambodian territory, completely liberating our nation and people definitively, and safeguarding our beloved Cambodian race forever.

Briefs

Returnees in Kompong Thom

In 1987, Kompong Thom Province welcomed back 807 misled persons, including 658 Pol Potists, 102 Sereikans, and 47 Moulinakans. The returnees brought along with them 274 assorted weapons and some war materiel. [Summary] *[Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 10 Feb 88 BK]*

Indonesia

Murdani Questioned on Handing Over Army Postion

BK101310 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] The position of ABRI [Indonesian Armed Forces] Armed Forces commander will be handed over to General Tri Sutrisno from General L.B. Murdani, and the former's position as Army chief of staff will be filled by Lieutenant General Edi Sudrajat who is currently the acting Army chief of staff. Armed Forces Commander L.B. Murdani said this when asked by newsmen after seeing off Brunei Darussalam's Armed Forces Chief Major General Datuk Sri Pahlawan Mohamed Bin Daud who had made a courtesy visit on President Suharto at his residence in Jalan Cendana, Jakarta, today.

The Armed Forces commander clarified that the official appointment of Tri Sutrisno as Armed Forces commander will be made by President Suharto at Istana Negara [State Palace] on 7 March while the handing over of Army chief of staff duties is expected to be made before the end of February.

The Armed Forces Commander General L.B. Murdani said the handing over of duties before the next parliamentary session indicates that the security situation in Indonesia is stable.

Announcement Sparks Speculation

BK100920 Hong Kong AFP in English 0818 GMT 11 Feb 88

[by Kate Webb: "Murdani Replacement Raises Speculation"]

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 11 (AFP)—A surprise announcement that Armed Forces Commander Benni Murdani is to be replaced by Army Chief Tri Sutrisno has sparked much speculation among residents and diplomats here, particularly over its timing.

General Murdani announced after meeting with President Suharto Wednesday that he would hand over command on March 8, before the March 11 naming of a new president, breaking a long-standing tradition of the president realigning top military and cabinet posts only after being granted a new mandate.

The changeover was headline news in newspapers here Thursday, but analysts were asking why it had come now, and speculating on the future of the two generals, especially Gen Murdani, who since 1983 has been seen as the second most powerful man in the country.

There was some speculation Thursday that Gen Murdani, 55, traditionally blunt and direct, could have got on the wrong side of the president, but most observers discounted the idea.

"I don't think Benni has fallen out of grace, it is possible that if the president does want to step down mid-term, he wants the Kopkamtib (the National Internal Security Command) and the Armed Forces chief's posts separate," commented an Asian diplomat.

The diplomat was referring to the fact that since being named to the top military post in 1983, Gen Murdani has been both Armed Forces commander and internal security chief, adding considerable power to his position.

Only last month the country's ruling Golkar Party and dissident retired generals warned that a new military bill could make the military more powerful than the presidency and called for a clarification of the line of command.

Gen Murdani, announcing his replacement Wednesday, said that his future was up to the president, and that it was too early for him to say whether the younger Gen Tri would also assume command of Kopkamtib.

Before Gen Murdani's appointment as Kopkamtib chief, directly responsible to the president, in 1983, the post had not been held in tandem with another such senior position.

Most diplomats confessed themselves baffled by the timing and long-term implications of Wednesday's announcement, but some noted that if Gen Murdani retained the Kopkamtib post he would still wield considerable, though less conspicuous power.

"If Gen Murdani carried that (Kopkamtib) to the Ministry of Defence," for example, "then the post of defence minister would again be a powerful post," speculated one Western diplomat.

President Suharto, now 66, has consistently said he wants to ensure that the younger generation is ready to take the reins from the older generation, now mostly in their 60's.

His increasing emphasis on transition to the younger generation in the past year has led some to speculate that he is in fact planning to step down mid-way through a new five-year term starting March 11. He has been nominated by all political parties for a further term.

Gen Tri, an officer of the so-called "new generation," has long been billed as being groomed for the presidency in the 1990's.

Unlike most of President Suharto's trusted senior office holders he is not a veteran of the war of independence against the Dutch 40 years ago.

It was Gen Murdani, regarded as a bridging generation officer as he fought in the independence war as a teenager, who presided over a drastic and delicate ousting of the old generation from the Armed Forces during his term of office.

"There is only one thing for sure, Suharto as done it again, playing his cards close to his chest and catching everyone with his timing," said one diplomat referring to the president's reputation for astute political maneuvering.

Thursday only one newspaper, the JAKARTA POST, ventured a cautious comment on the move.

"Although the timing is a bit unusual ... Gen Murdani's replacement by Gen Sutrisno should be viewed primarily in the context of orderly command succession," the POST said.

Gen Tri's appointment as Indonesia's top military man, the POST continued, "is a significant signal that ABRI's (the Armed Forces) regeneration process is virtually completed."

Murdani Addresses Air Defense Command
*BK110708 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian
0600 GMT 11 Feb 88*

[Text] Armed Forces Commander General L.B. Murdani says that experience should become a lesson for air defense personnel in enhancing their professionalism, particularly in handling increasingly modern air defense equipment. The air defense personnel should be intelligent in handling the limited air weaponry system as a whole to achieve concrete capabilities to the maximum.

Armed Forces Commander Murdani stated this at a commemorative ceremony marking the 25th anniversary of the National Air Defense Command of the Indonesian National Air Force at Halim Perdanakusuma Base (?today).

The Information Center of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia said yesterday that this year's commemoration is an important landmark because the National Air Defense Command is completing its third strategy plan this year and will start the fourth strategy plan.

On the occasion, Armed Forces Commander Murdani expected the National Air Defense Command to contribute to the success of the 1988 session of the People's Consultative Assembly.

Foreign Minister Returns From USSR Visit

Moscow Activities Reported

For coverage of Foreign Affairs Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja's visit to Moscow, including talks with Mikhail Gorbachev and Eduard Shevardnadze, an interview, and a joint Soviet-Indonesian communique, see the Southeast Asia & Pacific section of the 5 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Stops Over in Bangkok

BK1101558 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian
1500 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja said that the Soviet leader has appreciated the efforts taken by ASEAN nations, especially Indonesia, to resolve the Kampuchean conflict. Upon his return to Jakarta tonight after visiting Moscow from 4-7 February, Minister Mokhtar said discussions between himself, the Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev, and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze have been fruitful in the effort to seek a resolution to end the major problems of the Kampuchean conflict.

Besides the Kampuchean problem, the Indonesian foreign minister and the Soviet leaders discussed other global issues including the Iran-Iraq war, the resolution of the Afghanistan conflict, and bilateral relations between Indonesia and the Soviet Union.

In the course of his journey to Moscow, Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja stopped over in Bangkok and met with Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsilz. On 4 February, the Indonesian foreign minister presented Indonesia's views at the disarmament conference currently being held in Geneva. This is the first time that Indonesia has been given the opportunity to present any statement to such a forum since it was chosen as a member of the disarmament conference in 1979.

Discusses Cambodian Issue

BK110048 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian
2300 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] The Indonesian Government is awaiting new moves by the Cambodian factions to resume efforts toward a political solution to the Cambodian issue. Upon arrival in Jakarta yesterday, Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja said that while awaiting the new moves, Indonesia and Vietnam are continuing preparations for a meeting on the basis of a consensus reached in Ho Chi Minh City in July 1987. The consensus involves the convening of an unofficial meeting

between the disputing Cambodian factions in Jakarta to be followed a second-phase meeting involving various countries interested in the Cambodian issue, including Vietnam.

The Cambodian issue was one of the topics of discussion between Minister Mokhtar and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev during Mokhtar's visit to Moscow.

Meets Suharto; Briefs Newsmen

BK110838 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian
0700 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Speaking after meeting with President Suharto in Jakarta this morning, Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja said Indonesia is waiting for the ASEAN-backed Cambodian groups to resume their efforts to seek a political solution to the Cambodian problem, while calling on Vietnam to continue holding consultative meetings. Mokhtar said Indonesia is unable to go beyond preparing meetings based on the agreement reached by Indonesia and Vietnam in Ho Chi Minh City last year. The agreement includes the holding of an informal meeting in Jakarta between rival Cambodian factions, namely the tripartite resistance group and the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government. Such a meeting is to be followed by a second-round meeting, which will involve several countries with interests in the Cambodian issue, including Vietnam. This series of meeting has become known as the cocktail party.

Mokhtar said that his talks with his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev also touched on the latest developments in the Cambodian issue as well as Indonesia's and ASEAN's stand toward the issue. Mokhtar noted that the two Soviet leaders supported ASEAN's efforts to solve the Cambodian issue and were aware that a solution to the issue must be acceptable to all parties.

As for the PRC's role in solving the Cambodian issue, Mokhtar said the PRC was expected to persuade the Khmer Rouge to extend their cooperation and join the peace talks. The PRC is always kept informed of new developments through the Indonesian Permanent Representative Office in the United Nations and has highly appreciated Indonesia's actions.

Mokhtar also spoke on trade relations between Indonesia and the Soviet Union, noting that the talks on trade and economic ties were benefited by the visit to Moscow by an Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry [KADIN] delegation several months earlier. That visit had paved the way for enhancing relations between the two countries' private sector. Since launching its perestroika policy on 1 January, the Soviet Government has urged the country's private sector to hold direct contacts with its overseas counterparts. This is a good opportunity for Indonesia. Mokhtar therefore described the KADIN visit as timely. The problem is that the two

countries' exports are heavily dependent on oil and gas and both are suffering from the impact of declining oil prices. The depreciation of the U.S. dollar has also affected the Soviet Union's cash reserves.

During his talks with the Soviet leaders, Mokhtar was asked when President Suharto will visit Moscow. Mokhtar replied that it cannot be decided yet. Meanwhile, Mokhtar invited his Soviet counterpart Shevardnadze to visit Jakarta and Shevardnadze accepted the invitation.

ANTARA Reports on Trip
*BK110655 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0331 GMT
11 Feb 88*

[Text] Jakarta, February 10 [date as received] (ANTARA/OANA)—Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja said here Indonesia is now waiting for the ASEAN-supported resistance groups in Kampuchea to resume their efforts to find a political solution while Indonesia and Vietnam continues to prepare for the long envisaged "cocktail party."

Back from a visit to Moscow, Mokhtar said Indonesia can not do much more than pave the way for the "party" proposed on the basis of the agreement forged between Indonesia and Vietnam in Ho Chi Minh City in July last year.

He said at the Sukarno-Hatta Airport the Kampuchean issue with its latest development and the position of Indonesia and ASEAN on it were among the important topics he discussed with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow.

Both, according to Mokhtar, understood and supported the attitudes and efforts of ASEAN which are aimed at achieving a solution to the Kampuchean issue acceptable to all the parties concerned.

On China's role relating to the issue, Mokhtar indirectly indicated that that country could persuade the Khmer Rouge to agree to enter a dialogue.

He said China had continually been informed about developments through the Indonesian Permanent Representative Office at the UN and this "had been highly appreciated."

This has been done considering that China's help is also very much needed, he explained. Bilaterally, Mokhtar's talks in Moscow were mainly focused on efforts to step up economic relations and trade.

The foreign minister noted his talks had been facilitated by the results of the recent visit to the Soviet Union of a trade mission of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kadin which had opened the way for the expansion of transactions between the private sectors of the two countries.

Under Gorbachev's "perestroika" reform movement, the Soviet private economic sector has, as of January 1 this year, been allowed to make direct contacts with foreign counterparts. This should constitute a good opportunity for Indonesia, the minister noted further.

The Kadin mission led by Djukardi Odang travelled around the Soviet Union for seven days. Their presence in the Soviet Union was opportune as it was at a time when Gorbachev had just launched a reorganization of the economy, including the setting up of a ministry for foreign economic relations, according to Mokhtar.

However, a common problem for both countries is the drop in the price of oil because both are oil exporters depending on the commodity for hard cash.

So, Mokhtar said, the Djukardi Odang mission had concentrated their talks on the mechanisms and techniques of "counter purchase trade" between the two sides.

Further communications on this matter are still being awaited.

During Mokhtar's talks in Moscow, he was asked by Soviet leaders as to when President Suharto can make a visit to their country. The Indonesian foreign minister in this connection explained that he could not say for sure because there will be an election by the MPR (people's deliberative assembly) of a new president in Indonesia in March.

Meanwhile he had invited his Soviet counterpart, Shevardnadze, to visit Indonesia again and the Soviet first diplomat had accepted the invitation.

Asked whether Gorbachev had also been invited to Indonesia, Mokhtar curtly replied that he still had to report to president Suharto "tomorrow" (Thursday).

The minister left Jakarta for his just ended travel on February 1. On his way to Moscow, he made stopovers in Bangkok to meet Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsilz and in Geneva to address the UN disarmament conference.

On his return journey, he stopped at Paris and Singapore.

Laos

Thai Aircraft Reportedly Fly '255 Sorties'
*BK110144 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 11 Feb 88*

[Text] According to a report from Boten District, from 0600 to 1600 yesterday [10 February], the Thai ultrarightist reactionary troops fired nearly 300 rounds of various types of artillery shells at positions of our armed forces in Na Bonoi canton of Boten District, Sayaboury

Province. At the same time, their F-5 aircraft flew several sorties over the area. From 28 January to 7 February, the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries sent different kinds of aircraft, including F-5's and spy planes to fly 255 sorties into Lao airspace over Na Bonoi canton.

Details on Downed Thai Reconnaissance Plane
BK111104 Vientiane KPL in English
0914 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Vientiane, February 11 (KPL)—PASASON today published an item giving details about the unmanned Thai reconnaissance aircraft which was shot down by Lao force in Boten District, Sayaboury Province.

The gunned down aircraft "Skyeye" now exhibited in Vientiane capital, was made in California, (USA) by the "Developmental Science" enterprise. It is a small, unmanned, remote-controlled, soundless, aircraft capable to maintain a long period of flying time in dangerous circumstances.

The "Skyeye" reconnaissance has been used for military purposes in Thailand and in the Central America four years. [as received]

The aircraft whose speed is between 20-25 knots, is equipped with a parachute which can control its landing at an open and limited strip of ground.

The Thai Air Force bought a squadron of 5 such aircraft from the United States. Each is equipped with TV camera and a still photo camera.

Paper Criticizes Thai Premier's Remarks
BK111044 Vientiane KPL in English
0917 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Vientiane, February 11 (KPL)—Commenting on the statement made on February 9 by Thai PM [prime minister] Prem Tinsulanon who said "the best solution (to the Lao-Thai issue) is through diplomatic channel, but 'they' don't want to talk to us," PASASON, the organ of the Lao party queries whom the Thai Government leader was blaming.

Prem Tinsulanon said: "Behold that we have done nothing wrong. We'll talk when 'they' correctly behave..." From such statement with regard to the Lao-Thai relations, PASASON asks what on earth did the Thai PM talk about, who truly did not want to talk, to whom did he refer to when he said "they" in the sentence "they did not want to talk...," and up to now what exactly has the Lao side done to be called incorrect behaviour? To this effect, PASASON's commentary adds that there are things said by Thai leaders these days which are not only confusing but are incorrect.

"The truth is," points out the paper, "ever since the starting of the armed aggression against the Lao territory in Tasseng Na Bonoi , Boten District, Sayaboury Province, it has been the Lao side which has, on several accounts, proposed that the two sides end this useless bloodbath by peaceful means. [quotation marks as received] To this effect, the paper adds, such military adventure indulged by the Thai side does not in the least serve the interests of either side nor the world for that matter, as this can be seen, for example, in the call made by the U.N. Secretary General Perez de Cuellar in his letter to the Lao foreign minister where both parties to the conflict were appealed to, to solve the problem urgently by negotiations. And that is exactly what the Lao side wants, adds the paper.

Having peaceful objective in mind, the paper elucidates, the Government of Laos, on January 25, 1988 proposed that its delegation headed by the Lao foreign minister was ready to negotiate with the Thai side which could choose Bangkok or Vientiane as the venue for the talks. This willingness to solve the Lao-Thai relations by peaceful means has been the Lao side's constant stance. Talks on the basis of equality and free from preconditions have been offered to the Thai whether in the past as in the case of the three Lao hamlets aggressed by Thai Army in 1984, or regarding the current dispute in western part of the Lao Boten District. Borne out of the aspiration to save the blood-relations, to safeguard peace and out of abhorrence for war, the Lao side, time and again, proposes the settlement of the problem by peaceful channel, and it was the first in favour of this option.

But is is regrettable to note, the commentator of PASASON says, that Thai officials, particularly Thai Foreign Minister [FM] Sitthi Sawetsila, have tried their best deploying about-face method: On January 28, 1988, Sitthi Sawetsila said he would welcome Lao Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut at the talks in Bangkok, then a day after on January 29, 1988, Thai FM said that Phoun Sipaseut was not invited as the head of Lao delegation at the talks but simply as an acquaintance... PASASON points out adding that who then does not genuinely want to solve the dispute between the two neighbours by peaceful way.

The paper PASASON concludes by pointing out that it is high time for their officials, who in words, care for the well-being of the Thai people and the two countries' brotherly relations, to stop their military adventure threatening the lives and properties of ordinary peoples, and jeopardising peace and stability.

Article on Thai 'Obsolete Line of Thinking'
BK110926 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Article: "Pan-Thai Doctrine Should Not Overlook Laos' Growth and Strength"]

[Text] The ultrarightist reactionaries in the Thai ruling circles, advocates of the pan-Thai doctrine who have long been in the habit of intruding into and grabbing

other countries' territory, are excessively ambitious and boastful of their potential. Their attitude and way of thinking was clearly exposed during an interview granted to the media on 2 February by the Thai Army commander, concurrently serving as acting supreme commander of the Thai armed forces, in which he declared that the Thai armed forces will subdue the Lao forces within a day or two. However, the general public is doubtful if the pledge made by this Thai military leader could ever be materialized because earlier another Thai leader who is more powerful than General Chawalit set a similar deadline. Reality, however, has proved them both wrong.

As a matter of fact, during the past 2 months all the military operations launched by the Thai ultrarightist troops have failed causing heavy losses in terms of lives and weapons to the Thai armed forces. The Thai ultrarightist reactionaries are still unable to acknowledge Laos' growth and strength in the present era. They still view Laos as a small country, Thailand's younger brother, and a former colony of Thailand, and believe that it must be subject to Thailand and accept every instruction from the latter. Blinded by their unchanging attitude and obsolete line of thinking, they send their troops to seize Lao territory wherever they want to. The incident of the three Laos' hamlets in Paklai District which broke out in 1984 and the ongoing fighting in Na Bonoi canton, where the regional armed forces of Boten District are exercising their legitimate right to self-defense in safeguarding their most beloved territory, can be cited as examples. The Thai side is making a loud noise in the style of a thief crying stop thief so as to create conditions to justify the mobilization of soldiers from all armed forces to attack positions of the Lao regional armed forces in Na Bonoi canton. The Thai army commander himself arrived to direct the military operations in the hope that the regional armed forces of Boten District would be forced to surrender in a short period of time as the Thai top brass have often declared.

However, their hopes are like bubbles in the air. The failure of every attack they have launched against the Lao regional armed forces' positions since 15 December last year proves that their dark schemes can never be materialized. From the very first attack they launched, they have been defeated while the morale of their soldiers has steadily declined. Meanwhile, the regional armed forces of Boten District, the land of heroes, have grown stronger and won more brilliant victories with every passing day inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. True to the pan-Thai doctrine, the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries have shamelessly denied their painful defeats and senselessly accused third countries of having backed the Lao side.

It is certain that if the armed forces and people of Boten District or their compatriots elsewhere in the country are subjected to heavier pressure, they will have to resort to violent measures to fully reciprocate them. This is the legitimate right of the Lao people, and this just struggle

will not be allowed to disturb and affect peace and stability in the region and the world. The allegations and coercion—features of the expansionist pan-Thai doctrine—which a number of Thai ultrarightist reactionaries in the ruling circle have been applying to Laos, are already outdated. Although Laos is a small country, it is capable of deciding its internal affairs by itself.

Given this situation and the current developments in Na Bonoi canton, should the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries continue to adhere to their pan-Thai doctrine and refuse to acknowledge Laos' growth and strength as they have been doing, they will definitely suffer even more painful and heavy defeats.

Leaders Greetings to Iranian Counterparts

*BK111055 Vientiane KPL in English
0905 GMT 11 Feb 88*

[Text] Vientiane, February 11 (KPL)—Phoumi Vongvichit, acting-president of the Lao PDR, and Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lao PDR, today sent greeting messages to their Iranian counterparts Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and Mir Hoseyn Musavi.

The Lao leaders conveyed warm wishes of happiness and prosperity to the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the occasion of the 9th anniversary of the victory of the Iranian revolution. [as received]

The Lao leaders also wished for further development of friendship relations for the benefits of the two countries' peoples, for peace, stability and social progress.

Also on the same occasion, Phoun Sipaseut, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister, sent greetings to Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Philippines

Congressmen Seek \$1.2 Billion for Bases
*HK101301 Hong Kong AFP in English 1253 GMT
10 Feb 87*

[Text] Manila, Feb 10 (AFP)—Fifty congressmen Wednesday filed a proposed resolution asking the government to charge 1.2 billion dollars rent a year if military bases in the Philippines are used by the United States after 1991.

Washington should share the rent with Japan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates, which benefit from the security umbrella provided by Subic Naval Base and Clark Air Base, the bipartisan proposal said.

The proposal was submitted to the 202-member House of Representatives, controlled by allies of President Corazon Aquino. Its chief proponent is pro-Aquino Rep. Jose de Venecia.

The proposed resolution said the current five-year compensation package of 900 million dollars was "woefully disproportionate to the vital importance of U.S. military facilities in the Philippines to U.S. regional and global strategies."

The two countries are to review this year the current agreement, granting U.S. access to Clark and Subic.

Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus has said Manila may seek a better package on the current agreement, but will not discuss the scenario after 1991, when the bases treaty expires.

The resolution proposed that the United States should pay 600 million dollars, Japan 300 million dollars, with the remaining 300 million dollars shared by oil-rich Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates.

The United States and Japan's share in the package should be in form of cash and/or treasury bonds or comparable security that may be used by Manila to reduce its foreign debt.

The West Asian trio's contribution should be in the form of interest-free oil credits, the proposed resolution said.

The Constitution bans foreign military bases on Philippine soil beyond 1991 unless a treaty for their presence is ratified by a two-thirds Senate vote. Mrs. Aquino has said she wanted to keep her options open after 1991.

Last year Manila tried to persuade its Southeast Asian neighbors to share the moral burden of U.S. military presence in the Philippines, without much success.

"Past and current events have abundantly shown the disinclination of neighboring countries to share political responsibility and financial burden required and imposed by their enjoyment of the regional security vouchsafed by U.S. military presence," the proposed resolution said.

It also said that should the Philippine Senate approve a new treaty, it should be submitted to the people in a national referendum.

U.S. Nuclear Arms Presence Tops Bases Talks
HK101139 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
in English 10 Feb 88 pp 1,10

[By Chay O. Florentino and Ed C. Perpina]

[Text] Compliance by the United States With a constitutional provision banning nuclear weapons in the country "will loom very large" in the government's decision on Military Bases Agreement which expires in 1991.

But Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordonez acknowledged it would be difficult to monitor U.S. compliance with the provision because of Washington's policy to neither confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons in its military facilities or vessels.

In a related development, Rep. Florencio Abad (LP, Batanes), sought the immediate passage of an enabling law to ensure the implementation of the antinuclear provision of the Constitution.

He said the Congress should create a five-man National Nuclear Weapons Monitoring Commission to keep track of the presence of nuclear arms in U.S. bases and ships here.

Ordonez, acting spokesman for the bases review preparatory committee, also said that as far as the government is concerned, the current bases agreement will expire in 1991.

Ordonez said: "From our point of view, the agreement terminates in 1991 with or without any violation" by the U.S. of the nuclear-free policy of the Philippines.

He was apparently referring to another constitutional provision that any international agreement on the bases the government enters into after 1991 must be in the form of a treaty ratified by two-thirds of the Senate.

Ordonez also said members of the committee have agreed to refrain from airing their "individual views" on the bases issue to enable their chairman, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, to articulate only one position for the entire committee.

Ordonez's statement was apparently aimed at some military officials who, sources said, "have been speaking too clearly in favor of the bases."

Ordonez said the more substantive aspect of the committee's work will start next week when five of its members report on the results of the studies their offices have been asked to collate.

Sen. Leticia Ramos-Shahani, chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, Foreign Undersecretary Manuel Yan, National Economic Development Administration Director General Solita Monsod, Defense Undersecretary Fortunato Abat and Emanuel Soriano representing the academe, will brief the committee next Tuesday.

At the House, Abad said the enabling law he is proposing will define the commission's role in preventing the entry of nuclear weapons into the country and in punishing those who are responsible for it.

Paper on Platt Aide-Memoire on Bases Issue
HK110945 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE
in English 11 Feb 88 pp 1, 6

[**"Exclusive"** report: "U.S. Seeks Bases Review in April"]

[Text] The United States wants the scheduled review of the Military Bases Agreement [MBA] to be held in April this year and it has requested President Aquino for a preview of the Philippine game plan and for a joint effort between the two governments to manage the review process, including media guidance.

This is the gist of an aide memoire to President Aquino handcarried by U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Platt to Malacanang last January, the DAILY GLOBE has learned. The text of the aide memoire is reproduced in full in Francisco Tatad's column for today (see page 4).

The aide memoire makes clear that American concern is not so much focused on the review of the agreement but on the future of the bases as well—a subject on which it seeks President Aquino's cooperation and suggestions regarding "mutually advantageous" and "longer term" arrangements.

In pressing for the review of the agreement by April, the U.S. cited the following "practical reasons":

—Planning of the U.S. budget for 1990 will begin in the middle of this year.

—Consideration of the Philippine aid package for 1989 and subsequent years would be favorably influenced if the review could be successfully completed this spring (before July).

—American attention will increasingly focus on politics by the middle and latter part of the year because of the November presidential elections; hence congressional attention on new compensation pledges will be diverted after the party conventions in July.

—A review of outstanding MBA issues by April would allow for the start of renegotiation of the bases agreement, should the Philippine government desire renegotiations.

In seeking the Philippine Government's consent to an early review, the U.S. likewise proposed that "informal, preliminary exchanges" between the two governments be undertaken to discuss "the framework for the review."

The aide memoire virtually named Ambassador Platt as head of the U.S. Government review panel, and asked President Aquino for information on "who in the Philippine Government has been designated to head its delegation." Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus

is seen by many observers as the likely head of the Philippine review panel, but the Philippine government has not yet named him or anyone else to the panel.

In requesting for joint management of the review process, the U.S. Government said: "We believe our overall mutual interests, not only in the base facilities but also in the broader aspects of the relationship, require our governments to work very closely together to manage this process.

"As occasion warrants, this cooperation invariably would include coordination of media guidance and other aspects of portraying the status of results of our deliberations."

The aide memoire sought President Aquino's reactions to its many suggestions as well as her own "suggestions on how best (the RP and U.S.) governments can coordinate" for an expeditious review of the agreement and to "lay the groundwork...for mutually advantageous arrangements for the facilities for the longer term."

In an earlier interview with Secretary Manglapus, the GLOBE learned that only a review of the bases agreement, not negotiations of the bases' future, is specifically due to be discussed this year. But he said that the future of the bases could be addressed during the review should either government raise the issue and should the Philippines wish to bring up the issue of the bases' removal or the negotiation of a new agreement.

With respect to the scheduled review of the bases agreement, the Philippine government still has to formulate its position. A preparatory committee composed of representatives from both the executive and legislative branches of government and chaired by Manglapus started work in late January toward the shaping of the government's position. The work is still ongoing.

As to the Philippine government's position regarding the scheduled termination of the bases agreement in 1991, it has repeatedly declared that it is "keeping its options open."

The U.S. government, the aide memoire makes plain, wants to know this early to which option the Philippine government is tending, and specifically Mrs. Aquino's thoughts on the matter, even before the two panels sit to review the bases agreement.

House Committee Alleges U.S. 'Intervention'
HK111303 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 11 Feb 88 p 5

[By staff member Sonora Ocampo]

[Text] The head of the House sub-committee on international affairs yesterday accused the civilian government and military officials of maintaining a tight-lipped

posture on the alleged United States intervention in the country's internal affairs and called for a full investigation on the matter by the lower house.

Rep. Vicente de la Serna (Cebu), the sub-committee head, also charged that the military withheld vital information on the reported involvement of some key U.S. Embassy officials in the Aug. 28 coup.

De la Serna, whose committee launched a probe on the alleged U.S. involvement in the coup, submitted a report to the committee on national defense.

He said in the report:

"It is very evident that there is an intention on the part of the military to withhold whatever information or evidence there is regarding the alleged U.S. involvement in the internal affairs of the country, as shown by the actuations of some key U.S. Embassy officials during the aborted coup of Aug. 28, 1987."

He added: "Perhaps the reason for the concealment of evidence is the fear that any exposure on the matter would trigger anti-American sentiments, thereby prejudicing future negotiations on the bases and U.S. aid issues."

De la Serna said that while there was no evidence of a "conspiracy of silence" on the reported U.S. meddling on the part of the Aquino Administration, "an assumption to that effect is believable in view of the circumstances."

He said the House subcommittee tried but failed to secure vital information from defense authorities when it conducted a series of closed-door meetings on the failed coup.

"In the course of the investigation, we discovered that the people who should be concerned about the intervention are not so interested, and people, by reason of their position, should know the facts and details, do not," De la Serna said.

De la Serna strongly criticized a statement attributed to President Aquino that "intervention, as long as beneficial to the country, is good." This, he said, betrayed the Government's "distorted" sense of foreign policy.

He stressed that concessions garnered from ignoring charges of U.S. interference are not enough to surrender the country's sovereignty.

"An affront to the nation's sovereignty is an insult to its people and should never be condoned by anybody or by any administration, whatever the cost, whatever the considerations," the Cebu lawmaker said.

Saying that a further investigation of the subcommittee on the issue is an "exercise in futility," De la Serna proposed that the House of Representatives itself conduct an exhaustive congressional probe on the alleged U.S. intervention.

De la Serna said that the inability of Congress to probe foreign policy matters will only cause "frustration and show the impotency of the House against the other branches of Government and foreign governments whose intervention has become very apparent."

Captured CPP Hit List Names Targets
HK110637 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] The communist rebels' plot to assassinate top military and political leaders has been uncovered. More from Jerry Montejo:

[Begin recording] [Montejo] The military yesterday [10 February] uncovered a plan by the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] to assassinate top military officials and political leaders as part of a grand design to sow chaos and terror in Metro Manila. Colonel Oscar Florendo, Armed Forces spokesman, said the discovery was made after military intelligence analysts in Camp Aguinaldo succeeded in decoding some of the voluminous documents seized from the 20 suspected CPP leaders captured last week by the military in various places in Manila. Florendo told reporters during a briefing that among the military officials marked for assassination are Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa; and the concurrent chief of the Armed Forces Civil Relations Office Brigadier General Honestio Isleta. Others targeted for assassination include former Batasang Pambansa [National Parliament] Speaker Nicanor Yniguez and a certain Singlaub, Florendo said. It has not yet been determined if the name Singlaub is the same as that of the controversial retired U.S. Major General John Singlaub, a staunch anticommunist advocate.

[Florendo] The discovery came about with the decoding of several diskettes and other subversive documents seized from various places where the suspects were arrested. Dubbed as "NU-3 1-Year Program," the decoded materials also showed the different hitmen identified by aliases assigned to do the tasks of assassinations, and the kind of firearms assigned to each one. Aside from the use of firearms, the order for the killings also strongly suggest the use of explosives, such as grenades and dynamite without regard to the probability of killing other innocent bystanders. [end recording]

NPA Threatens Diplomats
OW101423 Tokyo KYODO in English 1201 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Manila, Feb. 10 KYODO—The Philippine military said Wednesday it has uncovered a communist rebel plot to assassinate key political personalities, while an

urban guerrilla spokesman warned the same day that rebels will soon stage attacks against foreigners and others aiding the Philippine Government in the fight against insurgency.

Armed Forces spokesman Col. Oscar Florendo said the assassination plot, which includes foreigners as targets, was discovered after decoding computer disks and other documents seized during a series of raids in Metropolitan Manila and nearby Laguna Province that netted 20 alleged communist party leaders.

President Corazon Aquino on Wednesday summoned military officers who led the raids and commended them for the arrests and the dismantling of a rebel "hospital" and communications equipment.

Presidential spokesman Teodoro Benigno said Aquino was "upbeat" and told the military officers to "ignore" accusations that they had violated human rights, calling the charges "unfair snipings."

The president was quoted as saying, "Let us have more of these victories, do not rest on your laurels. This is what the people have been waiting for. Keep up the good work."

A spokesman for the Manila-based Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB) of the rebel New People's Army (NPA) told reporters at a clandestine news conference they will "immediately launch operations specifically targeting foreign nationals directly and actively participating in the military's anti-rebel campaign."

The spokesman, who identifies himself as "Ka" (Comrade) Sonny, laughed off the military's claim that it has broken his unit's backbone with the arrest of the alleged senior officers of the banned communist party. "They better watch our moves," he said.

He said they are serving warnings to American, Israeli and British diplomats who they claim are working with the Philippine military.

"They are here mainly to protect their interests, that is the tragedy of their work," he said. "Ka" Marty, another ABB spokesman, said that all figures in and out of the government, directly or indirectly involved in the anti-insurgency drive, are potential targets.

"They may be Cabinet officials, they may be businessmen," he said. Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, who was former army chief, will be one of their main targets, Marty said.

He also said their next major targets are Manila Police Chief Brig. Gen. Alfredo Lim and Maj. Romeo Maganto, a police station commander and a known supporter of anti-communist vigilante groups in Manila's slum district.

The spokesman said the ABB "remains intact" and that a military estimate saying they had 750 men operating in the metropolis was "grossly bloated."

Gumnen believed to be urban guerrillas on Wednesday also ambushed and wounded two police escorts in an apparent rescue attempt of a suspected ABB member who was being driven back to jail after appearing at a court hearing in suburban Pasig.

The ABB suspect, identified later as Crisanto Ramos, is being tried for the murder of an air force sergeant in suburban Pasay City last year.

Florendo said that Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Renato de Villa, former military spokesman Brig. Gen. Honesto Isleta and retired American General John Singlaub, who rebels suspect of supporting anti-communist groups fighting them, were also targets in the communist assassination plot.

Leaders, Diplomats Warned

BK110427 Manila PNA in English 0309 GMT
11 Feb 88

[Text] Manila, Feb. 11 (PNA-OANA)—Philippine political leaders and foreign diplomats here were advised to take precautionary measures after government agents uncovered a rebel mass plan to kill high ranking government and military officials in the country.

The targets include, among others, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Renato D. Villa, former parliament speaker Nicarnor Yniguez and retired U.S. General John Singlaub who visited the Philippines twice last year.

As this developed, the so-called Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB), the communist hit squad of the New People's Army (NPA), claimed responsibility for the killing last Monday of a ranking official of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

Esteban Calalang, a senior legal officer of the DOLE's National Labor Relations Commission, was gunned down while about to board his car after office hours last Feb. 8.

Meanwhile, five suspected communist gunmen Wednesday ambushed a police car bringing an arrested NPA commander to a court hearing in Mandaluyong, Metro Manila. Three policemen, including a jail guard were wounded. Police said the attack was part of an escape plan for the captured dissident.

Military spokesman Col. Oscar Florendo, in an interview at the suburban Armed Forces Headquarters in Quezon City, revealed a one-year campaign of terror, including a kill program of the NPA against government and military officials in Manila.

The plan was uncovered by military intelligence operatives working on computer program from two diskettes seized during last week's raids on underground safe-houses in Metro Manila. Twenty top communist leaders were arrested during the raids.

Florendo said military computer analysts also unravelled a coded hit list that includes the names of high-ranking Philippine political and military leaders as well as that of American retired General Singlaub.

The military spokesman said those in the hit list have already been informed and that security measures have been taken to protect them.

Political leaders, including members of the two chambers of congress and the diplomatic corps were also advised to take extra security measures, he said.

According to the decoded computer programs, the rebel assassins, in groups of six were ordered to hit their targets not only with the use of guns but also with explosives like grenades and dynamite.

The military had earlier disclosed that the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) has deployed some 750 armed city partisans in Metro Manila to sow terror and violence in the Philippine's seat of power.

The government, meanwhile, urged the people to help fight the rebels. The call was made by President Corazon Aquino last week following the mass arrest of the communist leaders and the discovery of an underground hospital and communications center in the metropolis.

Foreign Diplomats React

HK110507 Hong Kong AFP in English 0459 GMT
11 Feb 88

[Text] Manila, Feb 11 (AFP)—U.S. and British diplomats here have expressed serious concern over assassination threats from Philippine communist guerillas and said they were stepping up security for all their personnel.

"I take all such threats seriously," said Ambassador Nicholas Platt of the United States, which maintains two major military bases in this former U.S. colony and has been the main arms supplier of the Philippine army for decades.

A spokesman for the 25,000-strong New People's Army (NPA), which killed two U.S. servicemen last October, said Wednesday that they had identified U.S., British and Israeli diplomats to be assassinated in the near future.

A spokesman for the British Embassy, who asked not to be named, said: "Naturally, we are concerned and are taking appropriate security measures to protect all embassy personnel."

"We would categorically deny any participation by any British Embassy personnel in the counter-insurgency activities," he said. "We cannot understand why they (the NPA) should threaten us."

The Israeli Embassy had no immediate comment, but had also said in response to similar threats in the past that they had no role in Manila's counter-insurgency program.

The Israelis have also been accused of secretly training the bodyguards of President Corazon Aquino, a charge both countries have denied.

Mr. Platt, who now moves around Manila in a convoy with local police escorts and armed embassy bodyguards, said all U.S. ambassadors here had always been in a "high threat" position.

"We always behave accordingly," he said. "We're always very careful and we work very closely with local authorities, so we will continue to do that."

He acknowledged that the NPA had the capacity to carry out its threats and that all U.S. diplomats here, as well as servicemen at Clark Air Base and Subic Naval base were told to behave "in a prudent manner."

Two servicemen were shot dead near Clark in October, along with a retired seaman and a Filipino base guard.

Washington provides at least 180 million dollars a year to Manila as rent for Clark and Subic, roughly split between military and economic aid.

Military Reveals New NPA Struggle Strategy

HK111141 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] According to AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] spokesman Colonel Oscar Florendo, the new strategy of the communist rebels is to carry out their armed struggle in urban centers as the Sandinist rebels did in Nicaragua, instead of continuing the struggle in areas surrounding urban centers as dictated by the Maoist strategy of armed struggle.

[Begin Florendo recording in English] Now, what they are doing is they are inside and sowing terrorism, killing people inside the urban centers in order to create a revolutionary situation. So, that is the big shift—from the outside and they slowly strangle the urban centers. They are now getting inside, and from the inside, start shooting people to terrorize the population. [end recording]

According to Florendo, one of the women who has been arrested revealed that the communist movement receives enormous assistance from European countries and communist organizations from other countries.

Meanwhile, in a command conference held earlier today, AFP chief General Renato S. de Villa ordered field commanders to be more effective in fighting the enemies of the government. De Villa said that he would relieve any commander who was not doing a good job. He also gave them more powers in implementing their plans so that the government's counterinsurgency drive will become more effective.

[Begin Florendo recording in English] He stressed that those who cannot deliver must give way to younger and better commanders. In his directive, the AFP chief also directed the field commanders to find alternatives and greater means to optimize the utilization of the soldiers for field operations. The bottom line, he stressed, is: Go out and get them. [end recording]

This is Jessica Soho for GMA Balita [News].

Security Forces on 'Summer Offensive' Alert
BK110735 Manila PNA in English 0718 GMT
11 Feb 88

[Text] Manila, Feb. 11 (PNA-OANA)—Security forces outside Metro Manila have been placed in combat alert following reports that communist guerrillas would unleash their "summer offensive," a military commander said Thursday.

Constabulary chief Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano said the attack was reportedly planned to be carried out in the outlaying provinces of Quezon and Laguna south of here.

He said the military got wind of the planned attack from several documents captured by government troops following a recent clash with dissidents in Quezon Province.

In that encounter, General Montano said, field commanders reported sighting two foreigners making a documentary film on guerrillas firing their guns on the soldiers.

The two foreigners, both Caucasian-looking, were seen tagging along with the rebels in their firefight with the soldiers in Quezon Province.

General Montano believed the documentary was intended to be shown abroad as part of the propaganda efforts of the guerrillas to gain international recognition.

Aquino Urged To Declare 'State Of Emergency'
HK111237 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
1200 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] The military is asking President Aquino to declare a state of emergency to facilitate the military's counterinsurgency campaign. The appeal was made by General

Honesto Isleta, chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines civil affairs office, in an interview with newsmen following his appearance before Congress on the alleged torture of arrested CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines] leaders.

According to Gen Isleta, the president should declare a limited state of emergency because the rebels do not observe the laws of war in carrying out their struggle against the government. On the other hand, the soldiers fighting the rebels must observe the law.

A state of emergency would allow the military to make arrests without corresponding court warrants as well as to detain suspects without having to file formal charges.

War Feared Should Muslims Gain OIC Membership
OW111311 Tokyo KYODO in English 0859 GMT
11 Feb 88

[Text] Manila, Feb. 11 KYODO—A new war may flare up in the southern Philippines if the secessionist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) becomes a member of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), an official involved in autonomy talks with the rebel group said Thursday.

Deputy Peace Commissioner Notel Tolentino said the Moslem rebellion is an "internal problem" of the Philippines, and foreign groups, including the OIC, "must show respect" and allow the peace process initiated by the Philippine Government to develop.

But Tolentino said that they welcomed the OIC's involvement as a mediator in trying to find a solution to the conflict that has dragged on in the South for more than a decade.

The MNLF, the main Moslem rebel faction, is fighting for self-rule in 23 provinces in the main southern Philippines island of Mindanao and other islands scattered near the border with the east Malaysian state of Sabah.

Tolentino said the MNLF's membership in the OIC "would only exacerbate the situation to a point where hostilities may resume and war may drag on."

"But since autonomy is the goal, war will not bring the MNLF nor the OIC closer to the goal of autonomy and as a result more lives will be lost," he said.

Membership in the OIC will allow the MNLF to assume the status of separate state like the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and be represented in international bodies where issues concerning the Moslem rebellion in the southern Philippines may be raised, political analysts said.

The OIC is scheduled to meet in Jordan next month. The government is hopeful that the crisis in the Middle East will prevent the body from taking up the MNLF's membership application.

A shaky truce has been maintained by both sides since September after President Corazon Aquino and MNLF Chairman Nur Misuari forged a ceasefire agreement and decided to begin negotiations on Moslem autonomy. However, sporadic skirmishes between the Army and rebel bands have been reported.

Tolentino said Aquino will appoint next week some 50 members of Mindanao Regional Consultative Council (RCC) from nominees of various Moslem-Christian sectoral groups.

The RCC will help the Philippine Congress draft an "organic act" on Moslem autonomy before the end of the year. The law will be submitted for approval in a plebiscite in the southern Philippines.

Negotiations between the two sides collapsed in May last year after the government panel insisted on following constitutional provisions on autonomy while the MNLF stood pat on a demand for immediate self-rule in the 23 provinces through a presidential decree.

The government said the MNLF proposal was "unrealistic" as it grants full autonomy to areas where the Moslems do not even comprise the majority of the population. It also said the duration of the proposed provisional autonomous government will put nearly a third of the country under one-man rule for five years.

"There is no choice as far as this government is concerned but in carrying out the mandate as defined in the Constitution," Tolentino said.

CHRONICLE Interviews Rafael Ileto
HK090651 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 7 Feb 88 pp 16, 10

[Text] [Mangahas] You observed that the Armed Forces is still factionalized. What issues distinguish one faction from another?

[Ileto] One primary issue is, and I think the President knows this, for as long as we put controversial people running the military, magkakaroon ng (there will be) differences. There are other officers, good officers, who are not controversial. Why not take those people, instead of gambling on those whose ouster some segments have been asking for? Why don't we just get good officers?

[Mangahas] But the promotions system in the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) is so steeped in tradition, senior class before junior ones. Non-controversial, good officers may not move up anymore.

[Ileto] Yes, but if you don't do that, and back the system, what will happen is we have one class that will take over in one year, another the next. What kind of an organization is that? There is no continuity. In the first three months, that guy is just orienting himself. The next six months, maybe he's little bit effective. The last three months, he's looking for a job. What will he do after retirement? So you only use even less than half of that one year as his fruitful year in his career. Like now, Class '57 is retiring. They're looking for jobs now. They're talking to people. And they're not willing to gamble. They're not going to lay their cards now and fight the NPAs because in three months, they're getting out of service. So in spite of all these, yun bang mga (those) "Let us go get them!" Don't tell me that people who will retire months from now will try to kill the rebels. So get somebody who will be there for sometime. And you can jump now based on merit system, not just seniority system.

[Mangahas] Some people are saying that maybe you have many good ideas, but you very rarely spoke your mind about these?

[Ileto] We've discussed these in the command conferences, not in public. We've discussed the organization, over centralization, give the job to the Army, make them useful. We've talked about command responsibility. For example, when a company commander joins a coup, they only investigate the company commander. I said, why are you not investigating the provincial commander? Or when a provincial commander joins a coup or does something against the law, why are you not investigating the Recom (regional command)? After all, under the principle of command responsibility, the commander is responsible for what his unit does and fails to do. If you do not investigate now, the next point is what was he doing? Why didn't he detect this? Why wasn't he able to avoid this? That's why if they think they did not do it, they wash their hands off. And it's a good way to just get promoted. Just don't do anything good, don't do anything wrong. They think that with the seniority system of promotions, they'll get to the top anyway. But how effective are these kinds of officers? And I have discussed this. But I think people are hesitant to apply the system of command responsibility because they don't know where it will stop, because they are afraid they might suffer.

[Mangahas] Who is the final arbiter on issues on which there is no consensus, proposals not acted upon?

[Ileto] Well, of course, the President. After all, the defense department is treated only as an adviser. It is not in the command line. Actually it is the President, then the chief of staff, then the major service commanders.

Actually, by command responsibility we mean from the President to the major service commanders. Take the AFP budget for example. Why is the budget being given to the GHQ (General Headquarters) not to the major service commanders? During my time when I was Army commander I kept the budget, I defend the budget. But GHQ, why? Because GHQ conducts operations. The major services are complaining. Why does it have to pass through the GHQ and be allocated by GHQ? Well, GHQ's rationale is it is conducting operations and must have the freedom to adjust a little bit. But in the first place, why is it running all these operations?

[Mangahas] How would you compare the Armed Forces before and now? In the way it's being managed and run, responsibilities...

[Ileto] This started only during (Mr. Marcos' chief of staff, Gen. Fabian) Ver's time when he organized the RUCs (Regional Unified Commands). RUCs are task forces. Task forces in the strict sense, in military terms, are forces that are grouped together to accomplish limited missions within limited periods of time. They are not permanent structures. It does not have its own logistics, logistics support. It's a conglomeration of different units. But they were institutionalized here just so GHQ will have direct command. So you will have Air Forces, Navy, PC, Army in one group and sometimes you find RUC commanders from the Air Force conducting ground operations. It weakens the whole set-up. What does an Air Force officer know about ground operations? Or for that matter a PC general? A provincial commander has about three or four company commanders. But the basic unit is a company, a small unit. All of a sudden you find them commanding RUCs, divisions, brigades and people who really sweated it out in the fields and the mountains never get the chance, hardly get a chance because some other people are commanding ground operations. Alam mo yun bang ang pakiramdam mo na (you ask yourself) 'who is he?' What does he know to tell me this is the way we will operate?

[Mangahas] How about the commanders of other service commands?

[Ileto] Well, the Navy has its own business. The Air Force knows it has a supportive role. All of these like in Thailand, the ground force is the main force, the nucleus. All the others are in support of the Army. That's why in Thailand it's the Army commander who is most powerful because he commands 11 divisions, armored divisions. Even in India, the Army is there. You just put under the Army all the others. The police, the PC were in support. But here, no. You can see the major commands being run by the Air Force, PC.

[Mangahas] You were a very important person in the February revolution as bridge between Armed Forces factions?

[Ileto] Ah yes. I was in touch with Ver and I was in touch with (then Defense Minister Juan Ponce) Enrile and Ramos. And I was the one who suggested a committee be formed. My concern was military and tactical, not the political aspect. I wanted to confine my role to the military aspect. I told Ver that he'll have two generals (during the negotiations) and he asked what issues will be taken up. My proposal was to have an open conference, to bring the conflict to the conference table so that there will be no bloodshed.

[Mangahas] Did Ver see you before the revolution?

[Ileto] No, during the revolution. Before the revolution I was not playing a mediator role. I was siding quietly with Ramos and Enrile, with this group of Jimmy Ongpin and (businessman and now Sen. Vicente) Ting Paterno. I was with that group.

[Mangahas] Sir, when the EDSA (Epifanio de Los Santos Avenue) revolution was launched, the military moved out of the barracks to defend democracy but also defied constitutional authority, meaning the government of Mr. Marcos. That seemed to have started the problem of how to keep the military off politics and back to the barracks.

[Ileto] This is hard to do because I think not only the military but our Filipino community, the youth in general, they want to be involved in politics. They are so politicized that even if I'd say now, 'remove all the PMA (Philippine Military Academy) cadets and let's change them,' what you will be getting are still materials from the streets, from the universities. You'll have the same problem of trying to wean them away from politics. The advantage is, right from the start, you can make them feel that they could be involved but must be well-disciplined.

[Mangahas] A year before EDSA, you were meeting with Ongpin, et. al. while you were ambassador to Thailand?

[Ileto] I used to come here, on invitation of (the late Philippine Airlines EVP [expansion unknown] Martin) Bonoan. Nagpupunta yan sa [He would go to] Bangkok and we used to talk. Sabi niya [He said], let's help each other because we understood each other's feelings against the Administration. Nasama ako diyan, kagrupo ko sina [I joined them and I was with] Jimmy Ongpin, Ting Paterno, at one time, Cesar Buenaventura. We used to talk about a lot of things, finally about how to change the Government, how to avoid a coup by Ver, how to conduct civil disobedience. They knew I was in Iran and I used to tell them how they did it in Iran. We kept on discussing this. Yung mga tanks, sabi ko [The tanks, I said] that can be stopped. Yung mga women sa Iran, nilalagyan ng flowers yung mga soldiers, yung kahit mga muzzles ng guns [The women in Iran decked the soldiers and the gun muzzles with flowers]. Like when we started psychological warfare. For example, every Friday, they say: 'We're not expecting you to die for anything but you can help this way: close all the bazaars on a certain day

and no one can go shopping.' It's psychological regimentation, getting people to follow orders. Let us not claim credit for EDSA. The Iranians did it first during their revolution.

[Mangahas] You joined the opposition while you were a diplomat in the employ of Mr. Marcos?

[Illeto] Yes, because I knew his government was no longer a democracy and we have sworn to support the Constitution. Then there was no Constitution, Marcos removed it. It was no democracy. It was autocracy or authoritarianism and I did not believe in it anymore.

[Mangahas] Mr. Marcos knew you did not believe in his government anymore?

[Illeto] Yes. And he called me independent-minded but still wanted me to be in his government.

[Mangahas] Ramos and Enrile were at once cooperative?

[Illeto] Yes, of course. I thought I was able to convince them in a way without much hesitation. I told them there is a group that had asked me to talk to them. I think they believed that it was not just me talking. They knew it was the opposition.

[Mangahas] Were your efforts tied with the RAM (Reform the AFP Movement)?

[Illeto] No, but I sympathized with their move. I was never a part of the RAM but I was unofficially in touch with people in the RAM. They knew my feelings. I was for RAM at that time because it was purely a reform movement.

[Mangahas] It did not surprise you that they staged a mutiny?

[Illeto] No, because they were really preparing for it, but not as it turned out to be. They had some plans already. There was no plan for this revolution. It was a miracle. I've studied it and looked it over right and left. There was no general plan.

[Mangahas] You blessed the partnership of Ramos-Enrile after EDSA, and now you three have separated ways? Were there fundamental differences?

[Illeto] With Minister Enrile, well he was the one who asked me to join as undersecretary. He talked to me personally. I don't know if there were instructions from the President but after that, there has to be approval by the President. I worked with Mr. Enrile at wala siyang masasabi [and he cannot accuse me of anything]. I did not have anything to do to undermine him or nothing.

[Mangahas] What was your working relationship?

[Illeto] We didn't have any formal agreement. I acted as a junior officer, as a deputy supporting him. In areas where I do not know what is going on, I kept my mouth shut, I kept my lips closed. I had a feeling that maybe something was going on but I did not want to object at the same time I did not want to agree with some things. Ito iba ito, eh [This is something else]. I had a feeling that some people were working for me to get out. So when I felt it there was no point. And if I can feel that the President would want to give a break to some people then...

[Mangahas] Could you have forced the issue and stayed on?

[Illeto] I could have forced the issue and maybe take it up with the President and even fight hard for it.

[Mangahas] Why didn't you?

[Illeto] Because I don't think it was proper. If the President has an inclination to do certain things, hindi ko na inaanong baka makasama pa [I did not rub in the issue because things could just become worse]. Because I was really avoiding a split of the Armed Forces into more factions.

[Mangahas] When did you decide to give a resignation letter?

[Illeto] After New Year's Day. Nothing to hurry. We talked Jan. 8 or something. She called for me. I got a call from the President. I don't know but I had the feeling that maybe, we are already entertaining feelings. So when I got there I remember exactly at the same Guest House where Mr. Marcos told me he was retiring me. That was exactly 10 years ago. Sabi ko [I said], it could be something similar.

[Mangahas] Before that, the President never indicated she wanted you out?

[Illeto] No. She was very nice. I admire her for a lot of good things. Wala, eh walang [there were no] indications. She'd teach me. At one time she noticed my barong [man's native shirt] that looks nice and she said that's a nice barong so I got somebody to get the tela [cloth] and just hand it over to one of her aides. And even in that New Year's call, she even thanked us for that piece. I didn't think she would even remember it.

[Mangahas] What did she tell you on Jan 8?

[Illeto] We talked for about an hour. We talked about a lot of things. We even talked about Jimmy Ongpin, a few things. His sad ending and what he has done for us. I guess she feels that she owes a lot to Jimmy Ongpin but the perception of the people was that she did not do enough. And I think she realized that. I don't know. Because I told her that in my old group, I was the only

one left in her Administration. I was hinting that "well I can go, easily." Some have had it, like dying. I said I don't think I will do that, but that was part of the conversation.

[Mangahas] Did she say anything that made you think she wanted you out?

[Illeto] Of course. She said she still feels that I have not enriched myself in government service and maybe I could be a director of some corporations or sit in Congress. Maybe she's thinking that if I leave, maybe it would be good if I will still be with government in one form or another, to help me financially.

[Mangahas] Why did you refuse her offers?

[Illeto] Well, I am in the government because she asked me, that's all. And to work for other people at this time in my life is not necessary. I don't like to be working for somebody. I have a small piggery and I could live comfortably on that.

[Mangahas] Do you think she got clearly what were your concerns about the Armed Forces? Were those things discussed with her?

[Illeto] Well yes. I think she did particularly in one item like for example the statement like "if you want to unite the Armed Forces you should not have controversial figures on the upper bracket, which is still basic." I am not saying about any particular person but as a matter of principle. Maybe she understands those. But I think there are other considerations like somebody must be at that position at that time and in the process somebody must help her by giving in a few things. I think I got that impression that it's an appeal that I could help her, I could give in on a few things like that. Sa akin naman [As for me], why not? I could have probably convinced her or argued but it's not my way of doing things.

[Mangahas] People are not very clear as to who in particular are the chief security advisers of the President. It could have been you as defense secretary, or maybe the security director, or maybe the intelligence director.

[Illeto] I would think nobody really.

[Mangahas] Nobody in particular?

[Illeto] Soriano, Joe Magno...I don't think so. Canieso, I don't think so. If there is anybody it will be the people around her, in the Palace and some other pressure groups who probably talk to her. And one thing is a ayokong magpasikat [I do not want to boast].

[Mangahas] Did you feel like as defense secretary you could have performed a bigger role?

[Illeto] I could have but...Maybe I could have done it but we have discussed this. She has agreed with me that there should be some changes. And in fact, she said at one time that somebody had agreed to go to Congress already but because of the Aug. 28 coup, she feared, at yan ang emotional na [and became emotional], she owes something to certain people. Like somebody was going out of his way to protect her. Although I think these people were not protecting anybody but themselves because they are the targets and you can see what happened to Camp Aguinaldo. he was not doing it for somebody but for himself. I don't know if she realizes this but I could not tell this to her because it might be self-serving. She feels that she owes this to some people and the solution is, and because of the pressure also, to get a new chief of staff who was spotted by some groups.

[Mangahas] Did you do anything that made her doubt your loyalty?

[Illeto] One thing. I was invited by Enrique Zobel to a luncheon. He and I used to see each other in Bangkok, when we were all anti-Marcos. In the latter part of the game, I even told Enrique "You seem to be singing a different song now." And so ever since then hindi na kami nagkausap [we did not talk to each other]. Ngayon [And] all the while I thought he was out of the country. About three weeks ago, after New Year, he invited me to lunch so I went. If I was hiding something, we could have gone to dinner to one exclusive place. But no lunch, doon sa Rotisserie (Manila Hilton). Then coming out of there, we passed by a lot of people. And I didn't realize that he had a break pala [expression conveying surprise] with Jaime Zobel during that time. I did not realize that until when we were eating sinabi niya [he revealed it]. Jaime and I were very close .

Sabi ni Enrique nagbreak sila [Enrique said they have broken up] because of the BPI [Bank of the Philippine Islands] but you know he did not tell me this. And so one day, Alran Bengzon called me up and in our conversation, he knew I was contemplating on resigning. But one thing that distracted me was when he said "Rocky how come they know that you went out with Enrique." Sabi ko sa kanya [I told him] what is wrong with going out with Enrique? I said he was an old friend of mine. I didn't realize that it got to Malacanang. On the way out, I saw Cesar Buenaventura and at that time Jaime Zobel Pala was with Cesar in the lobby. So I figured out that it must have reached Malacanang because of that. So I called up Jaime and I apologized if there was any such thing. And I said I meant no harm because I didn't know the relationship. But it reached Malacanang. There must be a connection.

[Mangahas] But the President never asked you about that incident?

[Illeto] It was Alran who told me that the President knows the story. So there must be something going on also other than that.

[Mangahas] But as you said your loyalty was never to a particular person but to the Constitution and to the office. You never felt that it was being disloyal?

[Illeto] No. I did not know that there was even a break between Enrique and Malacanang. I didn't know that. And I said that if I had any bad intentions I have been in clandestine work longer than any of you, and I said I don't have to show my face with Enrique walking down the alley, walking down the hallway, nothing. I was all friendship and if I meant something, anything, you won't see me there. Okay, I said it was an error maybe, but it was an honest mistake if it was a mistake. But I don't think that's the one that is responsible for what happened to me. There are other things. Like this association with (former Executive Secretary Joker) Arroyo.

[Mangahas] You were not comfortable with Arroyo?

[Illeto] With Arroyo, never. I don't know why, we were not comfortable up to this time. At the latter part, maybe slightly, maybe because they knew I was close to Ongpin. this is Palace infighting again.

[Mangahas] Why does it always happen that way, among people working for the same government?

[Illeto] These people are not professionals. As I told you I am open. That's why I said I am not a good diplomat.

[Mangahas] Do you think that there are differences in the very vision these people have for Government or only personal differences?

[Illeto] Personal. And it should not even enter into the picture. There are a few more things but they are too sensitive to tell you at this time. Maybe when I get ready to write a book, I'll get you to write it. I told them. I even said maybe the best is I can go on sick leave. Sabi ni Presidente [The president said], 'no don't do that.'

[Mangahas] Did she have a time table for your exit?

[Illeto] This is sensitive but she was telling me. I asked her what should be her time table? Friendly. Even now, I don't think I have anything personal against Cory. She has been advised, reminded. She has been changed by people. Our relationship, the influence of certain people.

[Mangahas] On what issues must the AFP achieve consensus?

[Illeto] Well, according to Ramos he will follow, I think we have initiated a lot of things, mga [legislative things]. He said he will follow most of those. And all of these you will look at it and ask why didn't they do it. They were there for two years. And now they will improve the Armed Forces. Why didn't they do it during those times? All these things could have been done. When they were ruling the Armed Forces I was not even meddling. I was just guiding.

[Mangahas] Why do you think they didn't do it at that time?

[Illeto] I don't know why. Maybe they are waiting for this time. Maybe they think they can do it this time, I doubt it very much.

[Mangahas] Why do you doubt it?

[Illeto] It needs the cooperation of everybody down the line but you have resistance down the line. As I said: In all armies, whether it's Patton or not, put a guy that does not command respect, and you'll have difficulty bringing soldiers to combat.

[Mangahas] As defense chief, didn't you have the opportunity to do this?

[Illeto] No. I don't have any command. You can see and it's very clear. I'm not in the command line, just an adviser. I'm not in the command responsibility. The chief of staff, yes, he could do that and he has direct access to the President. They cannot say that they cannot do it. They should have done it.

[Mangahas] What is the central problem? Is this a traditional rivalry between the Army and the PC?

[Illeto] There was no rivalry before. It just surfaced now. So overly emphasized because both two top men come from the PC. so they put the emphasis on the PC which is not good. The Armed Forces, it's disoriented. They're looking now how to stop gambling. This whole Armed Forces. What is gambling? You can not stop it anyway. You can put all the laws, you cannot stop it. It's so diversified that even these little odds and ends, civic action. That's not the main target. If I put a small bridge, it's not really to help the people, it's so that troops can pass through there so when I chase the enemy I can use that bridge. I am oversimplifying it but that is the general idea.

[Mangahas] Do you see any solution in sight, sir?

[Illeto] It's simply a whole government effort where every sector of government is moving so that the economy will progress, employment. And while the Armed Forces tries to aim at the major objective, removing the arms, removing the enemy, neutralizing the effect of these people, other sections of government should look after employment, living conditions. Now the military is carried over with this because it is easier to come out with an OB (order of battle) saying that honorable so and so, Mr. so and so in government are communists. It's the easiest thing. But the more difficult thing is who are these commanders, where are they now, where are they operating, where are their bases of operations in the mountain areas. Also the solution is to get really good combat people in the Armed Forces. Tell them your job is to neutralize the 24,000 NPAs, get all their arms and

that is your enemy. Forget about this infiltration here in KMU [Kilusang Mayo Uno—I May Movement]. Let the intelligence people handle the situation. They are too diversified.

[Mangahas] Can we ever achieve the President's goal of defeating the insurgents by 1992?

[Illeto] At first I was so hopeful that maybe we could I think we still could, but not at the way it is going. All publicity. They want to be in the limelight. As I've said you know it's being in the limelight that blinds people. It's the spotlight which blinds you to the point where you cannot distinguish the right from the wrong.

[Mangahas] That comes with the high position they were given, they want to keep?

[Illeto] Yes. It's not good.

[Mangahas] What do you think is the role you will play now as someone out, but very well respected by military men?

[Illeto] Well for a while I will live a peaceful private life hopefully and then if and when there is danger to the country I'll not back out and turn my back around.

[Mangahas] You must be monitoring the situation very closely?

[Illeto] I have to. It's my country. It's not their country all alone. It's not only their country. It's our country so I'm part of it.

[Mangahas] Do you, like some people, read possible short cuts to 1992 or intervening events that may happen?

[Illeto] There could be some attempts.

[Mangahas] From within?

[Illeto] From within. At first I thought from without which is difficult to do but I could hear noises even from within.

[Mangahas] What must a politician do to get you on his side?

[Illeto] I don't know, I have not come to that bridge yet.

[Mansahas] You've been approached?

[Illeto] No. I don't expect and I hope I won't be for a while. I've been listening to a lot of news, a lot of fun. I've been praised by many people so many times. I don't know. What do you think? I'm trying to avoid a situation

like that. Not yet. I think. I'm trying to avoid a situation like that. Not yet. I think I'll enjoy a few months just attending to my hogs and at least my hogs are more disciplined in their minds.

[Mangahas] What things are in favor of this Government in the fight against insurgents?

[Illeto] Well the morale of the troops have improved. The effort to reform them have progressed quite well as compared to a year and a half ago. But the phasing, It's a little bit too slow and I'm not just being impatient. About a year ago I noticed that the initiative is still with the enemies so I said "Okay I don't care about the score. You watch now all these reports in these encounters. I want to find out who initiated it." And at first 70 per cent was initiated by the other side. I said this is terrible, we are on the defensive. And you cannot win a war this way. So I changed the emphasis and it has improved. I said send your troops. I don't care, we might lose some men or maybe give them in the tally. It might look as if we're losing but for as long as we initiated the combat, we look for them. Even if we lost in the combat, give them a positive score; it has improved. Now I think we're bound to 50-50. Half of the initiative is still with the enemy. I would like to see the day when our offensive can really reach maybe 70 per cent of all contacts.

[Mangahas] So you mean specific targets in actual operations launched to regain the initiative in the war.

[Illeto] Well, we have more or less ingrained in the minds of the commanders to put more attention to the offensive posture of the military. Because in offensive, it is not a question of killing. You cannot kill 24,000 but you can, half of it. Even during Magsaysay's time, when the Huk was 17,000, we didn't kill 17,000, only 5,000. But the others came down because of the pressure we exerted on them. If you're not really a determined guerrilla and you miss your meals once or twice and you have to vacate your camp during rainy season because of reports that troops are coming in, kung hindi matibay ang loob mo diyan, talagang [if you are not strong-willed] you'll come down. Persuasion, not attraction is what we are trying to do now. It's a question of persuasion through military force.

[Mangahas] Sir, isn't the Armed Forces fighting with one hand tied because of the human rights policy of Government? Is this problem or only some kind of excuse?

[Illeto] Alibis, some of them are just alibis. The failure of some commanders, the first thing they'll do is to look for some alibis. There have been some but I have not heard of any enlisted man being jailed for it (human rights violation). Has there been an officer who was jailed for it? None [Mangahas] What about your stint in the Aquino Government was most rewarding to you?

[Ileto] Baka Sabihin [People might say] sour grapes. I learned quite a bit about how people react, how leaders in our country react to things. I learned a few things which I haven't picked up as a military man or as a diplomat, being really close to Malacanang. Some are really good, some I'd rather forget.

[Mangahas] What legacy would you like to leave, be known for best of all?

[Ileto] How a simple man gets into position and remained simple after he got there.

Aquino Urges Balanced Government Assessment
HK091437 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 9 Feb 88 p 6

[Text] President Aquino yesterday appealed to the people not only to criticize but also commend Government and its officials.

"I cannot accept that all we're doing is wrong," Mrs Aquino told members of the Kilasang Kababaihan Tumatagoyod sa Demokrasys (Kabatid) [Women's Movement to Uphold Democracy] in Malacanang.

The President said she is always "very glad" when people offer her "a happy balance," or commend "if you think we are doing well," but also "point out when we commit wrong."

Kabatid which had a national conference in Manila recently, resolved to pursue two main objectives—"citizen education" and "good government."

Dette Pascual, Kabatid chairperson, said she and her colleagues intend to perform the role of watchdog over public officials, because "Kabatid believes that we get the Government we demand and deserve."

In particular, she said Kabatid members will "adopt" executive agencies and congressional committees they will monitor and "bombard officials with letters and personal attention."

The mail addressed to officials will either be "love notes or praises when they are doing good things," or reminders "when they do things we feel are detrimental to our country's programs."

This way, Pascual said Kabatid will serve as "barometer of the public pulse."

Kabatid also offers seminars in "Frontline Leadership and Value Orientation" with special focus on women involved in grassroots communities, "citizen education" through systematic and objective monitoring of Government performance hinged on the goal of "accountability in governance," and public information forums on relevant issues.

Mrs Aquino, obviously fascinated with Kabatid's program, said she is "always encouraged when people like you who have no ambitions as politicians do" take part in Government.

"Every Filipino and Filipina can contribute to attaining our goals of peace and economic development," the President said.

She informed the women that on Feb 19, she will visit Mindanao to launch development projects there and the constitution of the Regional Consultative Commission.

One criticism brought to her attention, she noted, was that "in Mindanao especially, Government presence is not felt."

Landlords Defying Reform Face Penalty
HK100803 Hong Kong AFP in English 0741 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Manila, Feb 10 (AFP)—President Corazon Aquino said here Tuesday that the government would seize farms of landlords resisting agrarian reform and pay for them at below market rates.

Mrs. Aquino issued the warning after the deadline for owners to register their lands for reform ended Monday, with the nationwide compliance rate estimated at 60 to 70 per cent.

A number of landlords have openly defied land reform, a cornerstone of the president's national program, despite Mrs. Aquino's pledge to subdivide her own family's 6,100-hectare (15,000-acre) sugar estate north of here.

Land reform is also seen as crucial in ending the communist insurgency, which feeds on centuries of peasant yearning for land of their own. A few thousands families control vast farmlands in this nation of 57 million people.

Mrs. Aquino told reporters Wednesday that the only penalty for landlords who failed to beat Monday's registration deadline was that their land will be "taken at the assessed value, and not on the declared market value."

Owners were allowed to state an asking price for their land, called the "fair market value," if they registered with the Department of Agrarian Reform. The assessed value is usually much lower than prevailing market prices.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Philip Juico told reporters at the presidential palace Wednesday that 60 to 70 per cent of landowners complied as of Monday, and only Congress can extend the deadline for registration.

He said the highest rate of compliance based on preliminary reports was posted in region 11 in southeastern Mindanao island at 82.3 per cent.

In the sugar-growing central island of Negros, where landlords have threatened to take up arms to keep their plantations, the compliance was 30 per cent, he said.

Other landlords have questioned the constitutionality of land reform, whose implementing law is still pending in Congress six months after Mrs. Aquino issued a proclamation declaring nationwide agrarian reform.

Mr. Juico said the government expected to raise four billion pesos (192 million dollars) by the end of the year to start paying owners for their lands. The U.S. government is providing 50 million dollars to aid land reform this year.

Cardinal Sin Accused of 'Sowing Confusion'
HK091217 Hong Kong AFP in English 1209 GMT
9 Feb 88

[Text] Manila, Feb 9 (AFP)—Roman Catholic leader Jaime Cardinal Sin has come under fire from colleagues for saying that infiltrators were channeling church funds to communist guerillas, newspaper reports said here Tuesday.

Church activists accused the archbishop of Manila of sowing confusion when he disclosed at a foreign press luncheon last week that a major church agency had been restructured and placed under tight control to check rebel infiltration.

He accused the National Secretariat for Social Action (NSSA) of diverting funds from unnamed European groups to buy arms for the 25,000-strong communist New People's Army (NPA). NSSA handles funds meant for community projects.

Two bishops reacted strongly against the charges of the controversial prelate, a vocal anti-communist who is close to President Corazon Aquino.

Bishop Antonio Nepomuceno called on the largely Roman Catholic nation to "reject Sin," saying "he has no proof" to back charges against NSSA and other activist church groups, the MANILA STANDARD said.

Another bishop, Estanislao Abaza, reportedly said the Aquino government was a front for exploitation and oppression, and that the "progressive church" was helping the poor.

Palace Rejects Restrictions on Foreign Media
HK091435 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE
in English 9 Feb 88 p 3

[Text] Malacanang has rejected a proposal made by Tourism Secretary Jose Antonio Gonzalez to have all stories of foreign newsmen based in the country reviewed before their publication.

This was disclosed yesterday by Gonzalez himself, who said that Malacanang has turned down his proposal, saying this "smacks of censorship."

"We can't do anything, Malacanang has turned down our proposal and I respect it," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez made his proposal for a review of the foreign correspondents' stories three months ago, because, he said, of the negative publicity the Philippines has been getting abroad. The tourism official claimed this is traced to the stories of the foreign newsmen covering the events in the country.

He said the proposed review was not meant to curtail press freedom, since this is not tantamount to filing libel suits.

"The reason why these foreign newsmen bank on negative stories is because (they claim that) their editors want sensationalized stories, which is unfair for our government, which is striving to lure back tourists and other foreign investors," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez added that his proposal is not new, since this is being done by governments of Indonesia and Singapore.

Apparently stung by the foreign newsmen's negative stories, Gonzalez said: "They better file their stories somewhere else if their aim is to destroy the image of the country abroad."

Gonzales also said some local newsmen also capitalize on negative publicity because they want to be famous."

He added that among the countries where the promotion of the Philippines is being hampered by negative publicity is Japan, because of the kidnapping last year Japanese businessman Noboru Wakaoji.

The incident, he said, has tremendous negative impact on the tourism industry, since the Japanese were traditionally the "dominant tourists" in the country.

Thailand

Lao Troops Shell Township, Force Evacuation
BK110238 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
11 Feb 88 pp 1, 3

[Text] Laotian troops fired over 60 mortar and artillery shells in and around the main township of Na Haeo district in Loei province yesterday, forcing the evacuation of a hospital and breaking up a demonstration of about 1,000 villagers protesting the Laotian intrusion into Thai territory.

Initial field reports said the shelling—lasting about four hours—injured a local policeman and damaged two cars.

The attack drew condemnation from Thai military officers because the township, although located about two kilometres from the border, is some 40 kilometres from the main combat zone near Ban Romkla in Chat Trakan district of Phitsanulok province.

The attack, witnessed by local television crews and newspaper reporters, started at about 10.30 a.m. after residents of Na Haeo district gathered at the township's district office to protest the Laotian incursion into Thai territory.

The residents were stunned when the first mortar shell landed about 500 metres from the township hospital, forcing staff to evacuate about 20 bed-ridden patients into nearby bunkers.

The demonstration continued, however, until a second shell exploded about a kilometre away from the protest.

Loei governor Chiwin Suthhisuwan, who was attending the demonstration to help provincial Red Cross officials distribute supplies to Thai troops, urged the villagers to return home because a Laotian attack could be imminent.

Shortly after the governor left the area, the shelling—which later included 105mm artillery fire—intensified, lasting until about 2.30 p.m.

Apart from the hospital, Laotian artillery shells landed near the school, which was ordered closed shortly after midday, the township district office and the post office.

Shells that landed about 20 metres from the post office damaged a provincial Health Ministry car and another vehicle belonging to Pol Sub-Lt Sumet Klomklieo.

A police officer was wounded, but no further details were immediately available.

Thai troops returned fire throughout the bombardment.

Governor Chiwin told the BANGKOK POST last night that although evacuation measures exist, the approximately 4,500 residents of Na Haeo township were reluctant to leave. There are about 20,000 residents in Na Haeo district.

After yesterday's incident, the governor said he had ordered more bunkers to be built in and around the township.

"The township has never been shelled before," he said, adding that he had ordered tighter security and screening of strangers in the area in case Laos sent in agents to gather intelligence.

Apart from Na Haeo township, field sources said Laotian troops also shelled Ban Na Charoen and Ban Muang Phrae townships of the same district with 105 mm and 82 mm mortar fire, forcing schools there to close.

Although no injuries were reported, the villagers were evacuated.

Third Army sources said about 300 families were evacuated yesterday from Ban Na Chareon and Ban Na Phakkam to Ban Bo Pak in Chat Trakan district.

Third Army commander Lt-Gen Siri Thiwaphan said Laos seemed to be expanding the battle front.

In Phitsanulok province yesterday, Uttaradit governor Thawatchai Somsaman said Thai and Laotian troops clashed briefly in his province for the first time since the Ban Romkla counter-offensive operations began.

He said Thai soldiers patrolling Ban Huai Pong in Nam Pat district exchanged fire with a Laotian patrol for about 15 minutes. The Thai patrol suffered no casualties. Governor Thawatchai said he was told by Lt-Gen Siri to be prepared for any contingency, even though the fighting had not spread to his province.

In Bangkok yesterday, Foreign Ministry sources said that United nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuelar had offered to mediate in the border conflict.

The sources said Thailand has yet to respond to the UN chief's offer, which was received in a telegramme on Tuesday. The Government is unlikely to negotiate with Laos as long as Laotian troops remain in Thai territory, sources said.

Thailand has protested the Laotian incursion and downing of an F-5E warplane to the United Nations Security Council.

Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila yesterday asked visiting Malaysian Defence Minister Tengku Datuk Ahmad Rithaudeen to explain Thailand's position on the border dispute to other countries on the Malaysian minister's travel itinerary.

ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi told Tengku Rithauddeen, a former foreign minister, that ASEAN should make some statement on the fighting.

The Malaysian minister said he sympathised and understood Thailand's position.

Prem Considers Ending Lao Electricity Imports
BK110237 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
11 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] Electricity imports from Laos may be halted if Vientiane persists in its claims to Ban Romkiao, a source said yesterday.

Prime Minister [PM] Prem Tinsulanon has asked the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand [EGAT] to assess the impact on Laos of a suspension of the contract in which Thailand buys power from Laos, he said.

PM's secretary-general Prasong Sunsiri said the measure was being considered but implementation would depend on developments at the conflict in Chat Trakan district of Phitsanulok.

Vientiane has been making about 600 million baht a year by exporting electricity from its Nam Ngum hydro dam to the Northeast, and that figure represents about 80 per cent of Laos' foreign exchange earnings.

Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong said Thailand has been buying electricity on a friendly basis but has the capacity to produce enough power to meet local demand.

The Laotian supply, representing about three per cent of Thailand's power needs, could be made up from EGAT supplies, he said.

Thailand has made numerous threats to halt purchases following Laotian demands for higher rates.

The contract was renewed for four years last September after a price agreement was reached following several rounds of talks.

EGAT also sells small quantities of electricity to Tha Khek, opposite Nakhon Phanom and to Savannakhet, opposite Mukdahan.

House Committee Wants Border Dispute Settled
BK110233 Bangkok THE NATION in English
11 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] The House Committee on Foreign Affairs yesterday urged the Thai and Laotian governments to settle the ongoing border dispute through diplomatic talks.

Bangkok and Vientiane should hold talks on defining the Thai-Laotian borderline to avoid further misunderstanding, said Phiraphan Phalusuk, the committee's spokesman.

Phiraphan said the conflict stemmed from the two countries' different interpretations of the 1907 Siam-Franco Treaty and maps attached to it.

"The proposed diplomatic negotiations are aimed at avoiding the losses of lives and properties of people of the two nations," said the spokesman.

"Thailand and Laos, which share the same culture and tradition, should hold talks to prevent other countries from intervening in the dispute, he added.

Thai and Laotian troops have battled since November to control remote, rugged hills in a 75-square-kilometre area of mountainous jungle, claimed by both countries.

The fighting sharply escalated last week near Romkiao village in Chat Trakan district of Phitsanulok province.

Both Bangkok and Vientiane have said they are willing to settle the conflict through talks. But each side demands the other withdraw troops from the disputed area for negotiations to proceed.

300 Boat People Moved to Site 2 Camp
BK110239 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
11 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] Ta Phraya—About 300 Vietnamese boat people were moved from Trat Province to Site 2 in Prachin Buri Province yesterday, a source said.

The new arrivals will join the 3,100 Vietnamese who entered Thailand by land via Kampuchea and are not eligible for resettlement. They arrived at the camp at about 1 p.m.

The Interior Ministry has set tough measures against new Vietnamese boat arrivals in order to stem an influx.

Apart from the determination to push new arrivals out to sea, those having arrived for economic reasons will no longer be sent to Phanat Nikhom transit camp in Chon Buri, but to Site 2 as displaced persons.

'Special Treatment' of Refugees Criticized
BK110227 Bangkok THE NATION in English
11 Feb 88 p 4

[Commentary by Toemsak C. Phalanuphap: "Economic Migrants From Vietnam Don't Deserve Special Treatment"]

[Text] Humanitarianism is a powerful concept. One can lose hardly any argument when taking the side of humanitarianism. Even when one does lose an argument, one has the satisfaction of trying to defend morality and humanity.

National interest, on the other hand, is an equally powerful concept. It sometimes clashes with humanitarianism, as it does in the question of how to cope with the influx of Vietnamese trying to enter Thailand illegally to claim the status of "boat people" refugee.

Citing national security concern, the Thai government is pushing out the Vietnamese from entering Thai waters. The Thai action, predictably, drew a hue and cry from the UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] and others as well as the United States. The US State Department yesterday issued a statement saying in part that "while we sympathize with the difficult situation in which Thailand finds itself, we cannot condone any measures that pose a further threat to the lives and well-being of persons attempting to escape Vietnam."

The US wants Thailand to accept the Vietnamese for temporary asylum and give them a chance to apply for resettlement interview. This, on the surface, seems like a humanitarian solution. But is it? For neither the US, nor the UNHCR can guarantee that all the newcomer Vietnamese will be accepted for resettlement.

Then what will happen to those who are rejected? They will just join the population of Indochinese in refugee camps in Thailand, which at the end of January numbered 113,926, including 16,040 Vietnamese.

Those voicing humanitarian concern for the Vietnamese who were pushed back should look at the Indochinese in the Thai camps. A large number of them are "long-stayers" who have been rejected in successive resettlement interviews, mainly because they had neither relatives in the West nor valid causes to fear persecution at home. Filling up resettlement quotas with newcomers and ignoring the long-stayers is inhumane, even though the newcomers could qualify for resettlement.

Economic migrants exploiting resettlement programmes [subhead]

Such a flaw in the resettlement system is well-known. But nothing has been done to stop opportunistic Vietnamese from exploiting the system. Many of them have received remittance from relatives resettled in the West; the money enabled them to bribe their way into Kampuchea and take a short boat ride into Thailand to claim the refugee status. They could enter Thailand illegally because of assistance from Thai authorities who were bribed with gold bullion and US dollars.

Not only should the Thai government prevent more of these Vietnamese from entering the country (there were reports that 30,000 of them were waiting in Kampuchea for their boat ride into Thailand), it should also disqualify those who had arrived under this means. Confine them in camps until all the long-stayers have been

cleared out. This could be a new disincentive—the so-called humane deterrence—to other Vietnamese wanting to flee their homeland for a better life in the West.

One sticky question, which bothers the conscience of a lot of Western relief workers, is how do the Thais know or believe all the Vietnamese leaving the country are economic migrants? Some of them object to the use of the term "economic migrants" to describe the Vietnamese trying to bribe their way into Thailand. They prefer to err on the humanitarian side by treating all the Vietnamese as bona fide boat people refugees. This is understandable.

Unfortunately these Westerners don't know what to do with the 113,926 Indochinese still stranded in Thailand. Perhaps they don't have to worry much because sooner or later they will return to their affluent home in the West with the satisfaction of having served a humanitarian cause here. Too bad it is us, the poor Thais, who will have to deal with the Indochinese stranded here. Too bad we have let them in under the presumption of temporary asylum, not knowing that resettlement countries would subsequently come up with all sorts of criteria in selecting only the people they want.

Another question, which Western relief workers seldom ask themselves, is what makes the Vietnamese deserve such special sympathy? There are more than 300,000 Khmers precariously making ends meet in encampments along the Thai-Kampuchean border. Why not give them a chance to be interviewed for resettlement? Is it because they are not as articulate as the enterprising Vietnamese "boat people"?

Since when did the international community have an obligation to help all the Vietnamese who are discontented with political, economic or social conditions in Vietnam regardless of whether persecution or fear of it really exists or not. As a matter of fact, there is discontent in every country. There are also people who fear persecution and suffer from state discrimination in many countries. But why help only the Vietnamese? What makes them special and deserve more sympathy than, say, the Iranians or the Afghans?

After 15 years under communist rule, Vietnamese in southern Vietnam now face, not state persecution or discrimination, but "relative economic deprivation." They think they deserve a better life like their relatives and friends abroad. They seem to believe also that the international community is obliged to help them fulfil the desire for a better life.

The US may feel obliged to give special treatment to the Vietnamese, considering the damage it did to the country during the Vietnam War. But Thailand certainly doesn't owe the Vietnamese anything. Nothing. The Thais know what poverty and relative economic deprivation are. Poverty and relative economic deprivation

are not new in this part of the world which still suffers from the legacy of Western colonization. But the Thais are not deserting their country and clamouring for resettlement abroad. Why should we help the Vietnamese get what they want at our own expense? No way. No more such raw deal. There is a limit to humanitarianism. And this is it.

Solution? [Subhead]

Permitting the Vietnamese to enter Thailand freely and apply for resettlement will attract an endless exodus from Vietnam. The conventional wisdom is that there are more than one million Vietnamese who want to leave for a better life abroad.

One obvious solution is to improve the Orderly Departure Programme (ODP).

The ODP, set up by an agreement between the Vietnamese government and the UNHCR in May 1979, was intended to reduce the departures of boat people from Vietnam who wanted to join their families abroad or avoid persecution at home. By the end of last year, 131,000 Vietnamese had been resettled under the ODP, about 13,000 of them in last year alone. And Vietnamese authorities, including Vice Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co, have said "the prospects are good" for possible expansion of the ODP this year.

However, the Vietnamese government continues to deny responsibility for tolerating, if not facilitating, the illegal departures of its people.

The number of Vietnamese illegally entering Thailand in 1987 jumped to 11,195, compared with only 3,886 in 1986. Surprisingly, the increased exodus took place at a time when Hanoi was introducing economic reforms and opening the country for foreign investors and tourists.

Maybe the "reforms" existed only on paper, not in reality. Or maybe Hanoi ostensibly encouraged the exodus of the malcontent. Letting out the "bad blood" may drain the country of human resource, after all a lot of the malcontent are of the middle and upper classes. But in return, however, these Vietnamese who have been resettled will send home a lot of money. Remittance from the overseas Vietnamese has become a significant source of foreign exchange to Vietnam. Hanoi seems to prefer foreign exchange for the time being. The exodus is making only a small dent to its population of over 60 million.

Urging Hanoi to agree to an international screening process in addition to the ODP could be another solution. Hanoi must take back all those who are rejected from wherever they are screened out. However, Hanoi has persistently ruled out such voluntary repatriation, claiming that "economic conditions have not improved

and returnees would encounter the same difficulties that led them to leave," said vice Foreign Minister Co in an interview with REFUGEES (February 1988).

Normalizing diplomatic relations between the US and Vietnam, as well as ending the economic sanction against Vietnam, is another possible solution. This is based on the assumption that Hanoi is serious about its professed economic reforms. International assistance to Vietnam could be tied to Hanoi's performance in curbing illegal departures of its people and expanding the ODP.

The only snag is that ending the economic sanction now will ease the economic pressure on Hanoi to pull its estimated 140,000 troops from Kampuchea. Here again, humanitarianism clashes with Thai national interest. Thailand would rather see a total and early withdrawal of the Vietnamese troops. Thus it opposes lifting the economic sanction.

Indeed, Thailand has exploited the refugee problem and derived a great deal of political and economic benefit. But the assistance was promised to Thailand in the first place. To say that Thailand cannot complain or take unilateral action to defend national interest is nonsense.

Thailand has been at the receiving end for too long. It is time Thailand does something for itself.

If doing so, including pushing the Vietnamese away, offends the moral sensitivity of Western governments or international relief organizations, too bad. Here in this part of the world, national interest comes first. Humanitarianism will have to wait. Those who need a gymnasium to practice virtue can adopt some of the Indochinese and take them home. And good luck to them.

Burmese Border Point Opens for Teak Shipment BK110235 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Feb 88 p 3

[Text] Mae Sot, Tak—Thailand yesterday opened a border checkpoint in Chiang Dao district of Chiang Mai to allow Burmese teak timber to enter the country.

Deputy Foreign Minister Praphat Limpaphan said the first shipment of 2,000 tons of teak timber was allowed through the checkpoint yesterday, marking the end of a 40-year ban on cross-border transportation of the precious wood between the two countries.

Rangoon has agreed to provide military protection for the wood during its transportation from inside Burma to the border.

Another 30,000 tons of the Burmese teak is to be shipped across the border, Mr Praphat said.

The Burmese Embassy in Bangkok yesterday distributed bidding forms to 21 Thai log dealers and prepared to issue a special visa to merchants travelling into Burma to inspect shipments before submitting bids.

Mr Praphat, who is currently on a tour of northern border provinces, said more border checkpoints would be opened should the Chiang Dao checkpoint operate smoothly.

He said the Government had chosen Chiang Dao as the transit point for the Burmese teak logs because it was easily accessible for official inspection.

The decision to allow the Burmese teak through the checkpoint was made possible partly because of support from northern businessmen, he said.

Mr Praphat said he would travel to Rangoon at the end of the month to consult with Burmese authorities on a plan to construct a bridge over the Moei River to link this border town with Myawaddi in Burma.

Malaysian Supreme Commander Calls on Chawalit
*BK101202 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5
in Thai 1300 GMT 9 Feb 88*

[Text] Army Commander General Chawalit Yongchai-yut, acting supreme commander, received Malaysian Supreme Commander General Tan Sri Hashim Bin Mohamed Ali at 1600 today [0900 GMT 9 Feb] in the supreme commander's reception room of the Joint Command Headquarters. The Malaysian supreme commander is visiting Thailand as a representative of the Malaysian Armed Forces to further enhance good relations with the Thai Armed Forces. The two leaders exchanged views on military cooperation between the Armed Forces of their countries.

Vietnam

VNA Announces Release of Former Officials
*BK110808 Hanoi VNA in English 0720 GMT
11 Feb 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 11—In execution of an order of the State Council, the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has decided to set free 1,014 former officers and officials of the Saigon puppet regime. The decision was made at a press conference held here this morning by the Ministry of Information.

Vice Minister Phan Quang said that in furtherance of the humanitarian and lenient policy of the Vietnamese party and government and on the occasion of the Lunar New Year festival, a major festive occasion of the Vietnamese people, the government has decided to set free 2,586 prisoners and 3,820 detainees in reeducation camps. These are among a total of 9,174 prisoners and detainees in reeducation camps who are either released or have their prison term reduced on this occasion.

Phan Quang made it clear that the number of former Saigon officers and officials set free this time include quite a number of generals and high-ranking officers and government officials of the Saigon regime such as cabinet ministers, senators, members of the lower house, etc.

He recalled that over the past years, the bulk of a total of about one hundred thousand Saigon officers and officials concentrated for reeducation following the collapse of the Saigon regime in 1975 have been gradually released from reeducation camps and allowed to return to their families. The release was on the national day of September 2, 1987 in which 480 people were granted amnesty.

He said that the number released this time include about 500 officers and nearly 500 government officials.

Replying to a question, Phan Quang specified that only 150 persons of the former Saigon regime will continue to be detained. Their cases will be considered and depending on their repentance they will gradually be released within a short period of time.

Vice Minister Phan Quang drew the attention of the press to the fact that many of the released this time had committed heinous crimes and caused untold sufferings to the Vietnamese people. He further said that the released had been allowed to inform their families who mostly live in Ho Chi Minh City of their oncoming return.

AFP Carries Announcement
*BK110524 Hong Kong AFP in English 0510 GMT
11 Feb 88*

[Text] Hanoi, Feb. 11 (AFP)—Vietnam announced Thursday the release of 6,406 people held in jails and re-education camps, including 1,014 officers and supporters of the former South Vietnamese government arrested in 1975.

Deputy Information Minister Phan Quang told reporters that 159 supporters of the former government remained in re-education camps following the latest releases to mark the Lunar New Year beginning on February 17.

Details of Prisoners
*BK110900 Hong Kong AFP in English 0843 GMT
11 Feb 88*

[Text] Hanoi, Feb 11 (AFP)—Vietnam announced Thursday the release of 6,406 people held in jails and re-education camps, including 1,014 officers and supporters of the former South Vietnamese government.

Deputy Information Minister Phan Quang told reporters that 159 supporters of the former government remain in re-education camps following the latest releases to mark the Lunar New Year beginning February 17.

More than 500 of the 1,014 "political prisoners" to be freed from re-education camps from Friday are former members of the South Vietnamese army, including 11 generals, 121 colonels and 35 Catholic, Protestant and Buddhist military chaplains, said Mr Quang.

The rest of the group is composed of former members of the South Vietnamese government, including ministers and high-ranking politicians such as former Defence Minister and Senate Vice-President Tran Trung Dung.

A total of 2,586 people are to be released from prisons and 3,820 from re-education camps, which hold common law offenders as well as political prisoners.

A total of 2,768 people had their sentences reduced, Mr Quang said.

Those benefitting from the amnesty "have shown repentance and made progress during the course of their re-education," he said.

Hanoi had announced on Saturday that there would be a new year amnesty for inmates of prisons and re-education camps, but gave no details.

The Vietnamese Government released some 6,700 people, 2,500 of them from re-education camps in September to mark Vietnam's national day.

They included 480 who had been associated with the former Saigon regime.

The authorities said at that time that no more than one percent of the former South Vietnamese collaborators held since 1975, or about 1,000 people, remained in the camps.

"With the amnesty granted on the occasion of the coming Tet, basically all detained army officers and government officials of the old puppet regime will have enjoyed the humanitarian and lenient policy (of the government)," Mr Quang said Thursday.

On the 159 collaborators with the South Vietnamese remaining in the camps, "their cases will be considered, and depending on their repentance, they will gradually be released within a short period of time," he added.

The vice-minister said he did not know how many people altogether were being held in re-education camps, which also hold regular criminals.

Mr Quang stressed that those to be released from Friday "will be offered good conditions by local authorities" and "will be assisted so that they can soon stabilize their living conditions."

"It is our hope that they, depending on their individual circumstances, will engage in production, thus contributing their shares to the national construction and economic development. There is no discrimination against their children and families," he added.

The vice minister indicated the prisoners would be freed in time to spend the Tet holidays with their families.

Those to be freed include Lieutenant General Nguyen Vinh Nghi, former Propaganda Minister Ho Van Cham, and former Deputy Defence Minister Bui The Dung.

Envoy Reaffirms Stand at UN Rights Meeting
BK101534 Hanoi VNA in English 1456 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 10—"Vietnam reaffirms once again its resolute support for the Kampuchean people's efforts to settle their own affairs on the basis of ending all aid to the Pol Pot clique and dismantling all their forces," said a Vietnamese representative to the United Nations at a session held by the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva on February 8.

After denouncing the deprivation of the Namibian and Palestinian peoples in Southern Africa and the Middle-East, of their fundamental national rights, the Vietnamese representative Ha Dinh Can, continued:

"In Asia, Afghanistan has to continue coping with an undeclared war. And Kampuchea, a country saved from the danger of foreign-inspired genocide, is still being threatened by the Pol Pot clique and other reactionary forces armed and financed by foreign forces who want to reinstall the Khmer Rouge's genocidal regime in Kampuchea"

Vo Chi Cong Greets Iranian National Day
BK110308 Hanoi VNA in English 1459 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 10—President of the Council of State Vo Chi Cong today extended greetings to President 'Ali Khamene'i on the ninth National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The message wishes the friendship between the Vietnamese and Iranian people constant consolidation and development.

Statistics Department Reports on Cultivation
BK101454 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Summary] "The Statistics General Department reported that, as of 5 February, southern provinces had harvested 1.226 million hectares of 10th-month rice, accounting for 81% of the cultivated area or 91% of the

corresponding period last year. Provinces in the Mekong River Delta had harvested 756,000 hectares, accounting for 73% of the set plan norms or 86% of the corresponding period last year."

Along with harvesting 10th-month rice, these southern provinces planted 750,000 hectares of winter-spring rice or almost 90% of their plan norms. However, about 147,000 hectares are threatened by insects.

"Northern provinces have planted 600,000 hectares of winter-spring rice, accounting for 56% of the set plan norm or 79% of the corresponding period last year." Provinces that took the lead in planting were Thai Binh which planted 60,700 hectares or 80% of its plan norms; Thanh Hoa, 68,800 hectares; and Vinh Phu, 44,000 hectares or 65 and 66% of their set plan norms respectively.

"As of 5 February, the country had planted 376,600 hectares of subsidiary food crops or about 23% more than the corresponding period last year. The North planted more than 317,000 hectares and the South 59,000 hectares or 24 and 15%, respectively, more than the same period last year."

The Meteorological and Hydrological General Department reported that during the next 10 days there would be two cold spells which would bring the general temperature down to 16-17° celsius. As a result, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry urges localities to carry out the following tasks:

Northern provinces should continue to harvest their 5th-month spring rice quickly and should temporarily stop their work when the temperature drops down to 15° celsius. Southern provinces must strive to look out for and eradicate harmful insects on their winter-spring ricefields. They should prepare sufficient seed, materials, and fertilizer to fulfill satisfactorily the production plan norms set for the coming summer-fall rice crop.

Vo Van Kiet Attends Forestry Conference
BK061251 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
0500 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] In 1987, we planted some 146,000 hectares of concentrated forests and 412 million dispersed trees countrywide, exploited 3.6 million cubic meters of timber and 31 million truckloads of firelogs, and processed 240,000 cubic meters of lumber, 41,000 meters of planks for export, and 4.1 million square meters of slabs, achieving the total export quota of 36.3 million rubles and overfulfilling the annual plan norm by 0.9%.

However, many provinces have no plans to closely control the peculiarities of products in reserve in each type of forest, and as a result, have failed to formulate exploitation and reafforestation plans, to intensively cultivate crops, and to take positive protective measures, and still let fire destroy some 22,000 hectares of forests

in Tiam Dong, Tien Giang, Dong Thap, and Minh Hai provinces. In Minh Hai province some 30,000 hectares of forests which were affected by saline water, have been destroyed for shrimp raising, and a further 11,000 hectares of forests have been used as upland ricefields.

Acting on the guideline of using forests to develop forests and to accumulate and enrich the forest assets, in entering 1988, the forestry sector resolves to overcome outstanding shortcomings, intensify measures to protect forests in accordance with regulations, accelerate afforestation and the intensive cultivation of forests, and, at the same time, institute policies to encourage the five economic elements to participate in afforestation, expand cooperation with, and extend investment to, foreign countries for afforestation purpose.

At the conference to review the 1987 performance of the forestry sector, Comrade Vo Van Kiet, Political Bureau member and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, stressed the particularly important value of forests and the great capability of developing forest economy that is more favored than other economic sectors.

All echelons and sectors should correctly realize this point in order to develop forestry and meet the demand for forest products for domestic use and export. In the coming years, the forestry sector must surge forward to feed and develop itself with its own assets, and to make contributions to other sectors. It must consider forestry as a heavy industry, a sector with a large volume of goods, and the source of materials for production. The twin questions of afforestation and forest protection must be paid particular attention. The allocation of forests and land must be closely controlled. When forests are allocated, they are meant for production and business purposes and not for destruction. Land allocated to farms, afforestation sites, Army units, and agencies which has not been used, must be recovered. If this land has not been taxed, it could have been considered as planted to some other type of economic crops.

The sixth party Central Committee's fourth plenum resolution stressed: The forestry sector should make its important contributions to accelerating the manufacture of goods. It should separate the portions placed under state management control from its production placed under business management control, and shift to effective cost-accounting and business. There should be policies to encourage the use of forest land for residential and family-based economy in a satisfactory and effective manner. The rights to hire labor and inherit must be announced to set producers' minds at ease.

In addition to its self-procured assets—forests—the forestry sector may obtain foreign loans to expand the planting of new forests, and the exploitation and processing of forest products for export.

Forestry Figures Reported
*BK070906 Hanoi VNA in English 0712 GMT
7 Feb 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 7—More than 146,000 hectares of land were afforested and 412 million trees planted in various places throughout the country last year.

The forestry branch cut 3.6 million cubic metres of logs and 31 million steres of firewood. It also made available 240,000 cubic metres of sawn Timber, 41,000 cubic metres of floor plank and 4.1 million square metres of sliced wood. The wood export value reached 36.3 million rubles dollars [as received], overfulfilling the plan by 0.9 per cent.

This year the Forestry Ministry plans to work out incentive measures for intensive afforestation and broaden cooperation in this field with foreign countries.

NHAN DAN Commentary on SDI Program
*BK101423 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1430 GMT 6 Feb 88*

[NHAN DAN 6 February commentary by Truong Van Khoi: "Where Is the SDI Leading to?"]

[Text] An old way of thinking in the era will inevitably lead to unreality or mistakes. SDI is an example. The four conceptual SDI projects of the U.S. military have all along engendered contradictions. SDI No 1 protects the entire United States against enemy missiles. This project is attractive under the smokescreen of a cold war. It is a scientific theory, but technically it cannot be accomplished.

SDI No 2 defends the important strategic points in the United States in conformity with the ABM defense treaty. Nevertheless, if the treaty were scrupulously observed, SDI would not be necessary. This project is merely a way of seeking to override the ABM limits. As a matter of fact, it is not easy at all.

SDI No 3 has more modest goals. It is aimed at protecting missiles and not human beings. Not only does it violate the ABM treaty but it also has no support among the American people. In fact, SDI No 3 cannot defend anything because the disarmament of enemy counterattack is merely an illusion.

SDI No 4 is the project to establish a common Soviet-U.S. defense system designed to cope with the threat of any missiles. This clearly depends on U.S.-Soviet relations.

However, the Pentagon does not want to understand disarmament in the way that everyone else understands it. U.S. military circles contend that the defense of the United States does not lie in compliance with the ABM

treaty; instead there must be a mobile missile system to eliminate enemy missiles—that is, the creation a new military superiority in the balance of forces.

After all considerations are taken into account, the Pentagon has plunged into project No 3 with blind optimism. The technical entanglement must go through three stages of research in the eighties, experimentation in the nineties, and deployment after the year 2000. The research has been planned to bring the cumbersome and very heavy military base into space at an altitude of 500-700 km and to link it to a third generation nuclear weapons station operating on principles of the new physics such as particle acceleration weapons, and beam weapons with a 100-kiloton destruction power, which is equal to several of the atomic bombs dropped by the United States on Hiroshima.

With SDI, the U.S. military plans to deal a preemptive blow and avoid enemy counterblows. Ironically, there still are many technical problems to be resolved. The shield-cum-sword dreamt of by U.S. generals still has not come into being and cannot be expected to meet the requirements set for it. U.S. generals and scientists have admitted that the effectiveness of SDI under the defense plan is only at about 10-11% or 15-16% at most, and no higher.

Paying such a huge amount of money, approximately \$U.S.2 trillion, for only 16% or so of a shield, is not a matter of interest to practical people. One of the SDI goals is to force the Soviet Union to empty its coffers for the arms race, thus destabilizing the Soviet economy. However, even though the Soviet Union has to take countermeasures, the U.S. military economists themselves have calculated and said that Kremlin would have to spend only \$5-8 million to produce a missile fully capable of going through the SDI fence.

The Soviet Union made it clear several times that it was necessary to destroy the SDI role, and it would still cost 10 times if not 100 times less than the United States had spent to build it.

Moreover, the U.S. economy is not healthy at all. On the contrary, it has worsened every day to become notorious in today's world. What is not pleasing at all to SDI proponents is that the U.S. Congress has continuously cut military expenditures, including those for the "Star Wars" program, and that it is impossible to pass the burden onto allies—passengers refusing to pay.

However, the United States still clings to SDI. Although the Soviet Union has struggled resolutely to free space of weapons, this does not mean that it has no way of coping with SDI. For instance, it could manufacture a series of dummy missiles to confuse the SDI computers, concentrate missiles into particular areas (forcing the United States to triple the number of its military space stations), protect missiles against all kinds of beams, produce reflecting paint, manufacture rotating missile shells,

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However, the United States still clings to SDI. Although the Soviet Union has struggled resolutely to free space of weapons, this does not mean that it has no way of coping with SDI. For instance, it could manufacture a series of dummy missiles to confuse the SDI computers, concentrate missiles into particular areas (forcing the United States to triple the number of its military space stations), protect missiles against all kinds of beams, produce reflecting paint, manufacture rotating missile shells,

install refrigeration systems on missiles to neutralize heat-seeking weapons, manufacture winged missiles operating at low altitude under 100 km, and so forth. These measures are cheaper, quicker, and highly effective.

In 10 more years, if the proposed steps could be followed, SDI would enter the stage of uniform experimentation. By then, the Soviet Union and the United States, very likely, might have reached an agreement to reduce considerably the number of strategic offensive weapons, and the strategic military situation might have changed profoundly, making Washington realize that the space militarization program is meaningless.

SDI is useless and unattractive. It causes obstacles and irrational harm to mankind's progress. This is clearer every day.

General Van Tien Dung on 1968 Tet Offensive

First Installment
BK091109 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
30 Jan 88 p 3

[Article by Senior General Van Tien Dung: "Strategic Victory, a Fundamental Turning Point in the Anti-U.S. War of Resistance"]

[Text] Thus far, in the recorded history of wars, the Tet Mau Than general offensive and uprising is one of those rare events with huge echoes. The strategic blows of our armed forces and people in early spring of 1968, because they were dealt at crucial, deep-rooted targets in an accurate, simultaneous, and timely manner, though for a very short time, changed the war in South Vietnam and shook U.S. and world public opinion.

With the glorious victory of this very bold, surprising general offensive and uprising, our people's anti-U.S. war of resistance shifted to a new stage and scored an extremely great triumph before winning total victory.

Through many important documents, our party has made fundamental and comprehensive comments on this strategic victory. The most condensed remarks can be found in the resolution of the Third CPV Central Committee's 21st Plenum, the fourth party congress political report, and the recent directive by the party Central Committee Secretariat on commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Tet Mau Than general offensive and uprising.

Twenty years have passed. We have better conditions for a more thorough study and scientifically based evaluation of the nature of this important event. Time has brought out even more clearly the significance of this victory, which has been vividly recorded in our history as a brilliant feat of arms that led the anti-U.S. struggle to a fundamental turning point.

I. Why did we start the Tet Mau Than strategic blows and how did we set forth our strategic objectives and measures? [subhead]

As we all know, in early spring of 1968, while the U.S. war of aggression reached its peak, the 3d party Central Committee held its 14th plenum in January 1968 and decided to launch the Tet Mau Than general offensive and concerted uprising in an attempt to deal a fierce blow to the U.S. aggressive design.

From start to finish, this strategic resolution was the result of the Political Bureau's reflections, the efforts of our upper and lower echelons and our central leading organs and field commanders to make joint studies of the specific battlefield situation in order to reach unanimous points of view, and of the experience of our armed forces and people during the entire course of their anti-U.S. struggle.

We knew how to start the anti-U.S. struggle with a concerted uprising in the South and how to turn the armed uprising into a revolutionary war. We developed the offensive strategy and defeated the U.S. "special war" plan at a time when it reached its peak. We also firmly maintained and developed further our offensive strategy and repeatedly foiled the two strategic dry-season counteroffensives which were mounted by the United States with the massive introduction of U.S. combat forces to take part directly in the "regional war" in the South and, using air and naval forces, to wage a war of destruction against the North. The situation in the United States was chaotic and rife with difficulties. The U.S. Administration was subject to acute internal division. The United States' determination to pursue a strategic victory in Vietnam began to waver. In light of that situation, we deemed it necessary to lead our sacred war of resistance forward.

In May 1967, following the glorious victory in smashing the second strategic dry-season counteroffensive in the South and the escalated war of destruction against the capital of Hanoi and the North, our party Political Bureau met under the chairmanship of President Ho Chi Minh, reviewed the overall situation, and set forth the strategic tasks to be fulfilled before the end of 1968.

The key to our victory over the U.S. aggressors was to fight victoriously step by step and advance toward winning total victory. According to our assessment, the United States, still experiencing setbacks when its war efforts peaked at that point and reached a limit that could hardly be surpassed, was forced to consider pulling out. However, in spite of its desire to call it quits, the United States, being a very stubborn imperialist chieftain with great potential at its disposal, wanted to pull out from a position of strength so as not to lose face, hoping at the same time that the puppets would continue to stand firm. Thus, it all boiled down to a situation in which we had to make great efforts to deal a strong blow to the enemy while skilfully employing tactics aimed at

turning the enemy's desire to pull out into a necessity, and to provide it with an acceptable way out. Our goal was to achieve "independence, democracy, peace, and neutrality" for the South and, eventually, peaceful national reunification. The birth of the National Alliance for Democracy, Peace, and Neutrality during the Tet Mau Than offensive... reflected this; and it suited our plan as well as the position of the United States.

Analyzing the balance of forces of both sides and strategic opportunities at that time, our party Political Bureau decided: On the basis of waging a protracted war, our entire party, Armed Forces, and people must strongly develop the great victory scored during the last dry season and intensively step up our efforts to the highest degree in order to score a decisive victory within a relatively short period of time.

A plenum held by our party Central Committee in June the same year endorsed the Political Bureau's assessment and decision: While the U.S. imperialists are finding it difficult either to go forward or to retreat and while the U.S. ruling circles are experiencing an internal rift as the presidential election campaign is under way in the United States, we need, and have the actual capability, to muster the greatest efforts of the entire country for delivering a decisive blow at the aggressive will of the U.S. imperialists, forcing them to de-escalate the war.

Our strategic resolve was thus established, but how did we carry it out?

It was a matter of decisive importance here to select the targets and the fighting methods so as to deal a really incapacitating, painful, and strategically effective blow at the enemy. We could not simply go on with calculating how many enemy troops had been killed, how many people had been placed under our control, how many areas had been liberated, how many new units had been added to our forces.... Our party had unanimously selected the strategic direction and targets as well as the fighting method which consisted of bringing the war to urban areas by staging simultaneous attacks against cities, provincial capitals, and towns—namely, the enemy's nerve centers—and linking military attacks with uprisings by the masses.

The enemy's war machine relied upon its superiority in troop strength, great firepower, high mobility, and modern and plentiful material-technical bases. Tran Hung Dao said: "It is natural for the enemy to take action on the basis of its strengths. We must first of all determine what its strengths are and neutralize them." (Footnote 1) (Military Manual, Khoa Hoa Xa Hoi Publishing House, Hanoi, 1970, p 171) We had to devise a fighting method that would prevent the enemy from bringing its strengths into play so as to weaken its morale.

This meant that we would have to strike hard and with total surprise at weak and important enemy targets. We had to make direct attacks on the enemy's strongholds

and war command centers at the central level and in the various localities as well as on major stockpiles of its technical equipment, and destroy its means of war, airfields, naval bases, and logistical support facilities. On the main line of attacks against cities, we would have to closely combine the fighting methods employed by crack forces to hit at the enemy's strongholds with those of relatively large forces fighting their way in from without, and link the attacking prongs of assault forces to uprisings staged by people in the target locality as well as in the surrounding areas. At the same time, we would also have to draw the enemy's main force into battlefields of our choice to destroy it, thus making it impossible for the enemy to judge our strategic intention. This blow would also be a part of the general offensive and a selective direction for attacks by our main-force units. This would require that total secrecy be maintained and the time carefully chosen to surprise the enemy completely.

Given the state of our military and political forces and the balance of military forces of both sides at that time, this new fighting tactic was strategically highly effective, exerting a quicker and stronger impact on the will of the enemy troops both in the southern theater of operations and in the United States.

However, to achieve this, a series of very complicated problems had to be studied and resolved. How could such large numbers of men and weapons be concealed and moved in advance deep into the enemy dens, which were heavily defended both inside and outside? How could the people be motivated to rise up in conjunction with a military offensive to swiftly suppress enemy reaction? How could we retain our strategic scheme's element of surprise and preserve the secrecy of a series of areas of operations while, at the same time, making intensive and urgent preparations for such a large-scale offensive and uprising?

First of all, we had to rely on the firmest base of the revolution and resistance: the people. We could do that because we controlled all three strategic regions—the mountainous region, the rural area, and the plains—and even the cities. We owed such an achievement to the entire process of revolutionary campaigning for many years in the past, in which with great effort our party had built revolutionary bases of the masses deep in enemy-controlled area, including families related to the Saigon administration and Army. We controlled areas adjacent to, and interlocking with, the heavy system of U.S. expeditionary troops bases. This was mainly the strong battlefield of the people's warfare: the organized battlefield of the people's hearts. This was our reliable fulcrum. Just as Nguyen Trai said: The people can either sail or capsize the boat. This is the lesson of "using the people as the base" which our sixth party congress has generally reviewed.

Since September, especially during December 1967, and until mid-January 1968, representative leaders and commanders of the Nam Bo theater (including southernmost

Trung Bo), the 5th region, the Central Highlands, Tri Thien, and 9th battlefields took turns going North to report on the situation, discuss and supplement strategic plans, and receive assignments for organization and implementation in their own battlefields. Particularly, the Central Office of South Vietnam (COSVN) representative also went to the North three times to work. President Ho Chi Minh personally attended the meetings with commanders of various battlefields to hear reports, hold discussions, and give many important views and directives.

In October and November, while the strategic trend in the South was to urgently prepare for the general offensive and uprising, in the northern rear, political indoctrination courses were conducted to make middle- and high-ranking cadres of the party and Armed Forces well aware of the new situation and tasks, and to carry out the slogan: "Everything to defeat the U.S. aggressors".

In early December 1967, our party Central Committee Political Bureau met to issue a historic resolution "to shift our revolutionary war in the South to a new stage, the stage of winning a decisive victory"; and to set forth the urgent and paramount task of "mobilizing the greatest effort of all the party members, troops, and people in both regions to advance our revolutionary war to the highest step of development by using the method of general offensive and uprising to win a decisive victory." (Footnote 2) (Some Party Documents on the Anti-U.S. Struggle for National Salvation, Vol 2, Su That Publishing House, Hanoi 1986, page 70) This was also the subject of the third party Central Committee's 14th plenum (January 1968).

Not until 21 January 1968 was the actual decision made to launch the offensive at midnight on the eve of the 1968 Lunar New Year of Mau Than.

And that is how the making and perfecting of such a creative and bold strategic decision, far beyond any estimation of the U.S. strategists, took place.

Second Installment

BK101253 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
31 Jan 88 pp 2, 4

[“Continuation and last part” of article by Senior General Van Tien Dung: “Strategic Victory, a Fundamental Turning Point of the Anti-U.S. War of Resistance”]

[Text] II. Key Developments of the General Offensive and Uprising [subhead]

The Spring 1968 strategic blows consisted of several attacks combined with uprisings staged by our Army and people against a series of cities, towns, townships, and district capitals with Saigon, Hue, and Danang—the three largest cities in the South—picked as the main targets. These assaults were also coordinated with a

major campaign conducted by our main-force troops on the Route 9-Khe Sanh front. The key developments of the general offensive and uprising are as follows:

The general offensive and uprising began on the night of 29-30 January 1968—or on the Mau Than Lunar New Year's Eve, according to the lunar calendar in use in the South at that time. In the Central Highlands, at 0030 on 30 January 1968, we launched concerted attacks against the cities of Buon Me Thuot, Play Cu, and Kon Tum. In the Zone 5 lowlands, we attacked the enemy in Da Nang, Hoi An, Qui Nhon, Tuy Hoa, and Nha Trang. In Quang Nam and Quang Ngai in particular, we started attacking on the night of 30-31 January 1968, at the same time as our assaults on Saigon, Hue, and other cities, towns, and townships in Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces, Nam Bo, and southernmost Trung Bo.

Saigon-Gia Dinh was the main target of the general offensive and uprising. Our sapper and commando forces launched concerted attacks on a number of key targets, such as the American Embassy, the puppet presidential palace, Tan Son Nhat Airbase, the puppet general staff, the puppet Navy command, Saigon Radio Station.... Hundreds of thousands of people staged uprisings in the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th precincts and seized control of many city blocks. In the suburban area, two of our infantry divisions attacked the Quang Trung Training Center, the Phu Dong armored base (Go Vap), the Co Loa artillery base (also in Go Vap), and the Dong Du and Cu Chi artillery bases, Bien Hoa Airbase, the Long Binh Central Depot, the U.S. field command.... Our direct blow at the American Embassy, the highest command center of the U.S. war of aggression against Vietnam and regarded by the enemy as the most tightly protected and impenetrable, provoked a violent tremor that rocked Washington that night. We had succeeded in bringing the revolutionary war right into the enemy's principal lair, plunging his rear into chaos, exerting a comprehensive and profound impact on both the United States and its henchmen, especially on the U.S. ruling circles, thus dealing a heavy blow at the U.S. imperialists' will for aggression.

Of the three cities picked as the key targets of the Mau Than Tet strategic blows, the offensive and uprising scored the highest achievements and most outstanding victories in Hue. There, our forces launched concerted attacks on Phu Bai Airfield, the puppet armored base at Tam Thai, the puppet engineering battalion at Nam Giao, the Thua Thien Subsector, the Thuan Hoa and Huong Giang Hotels, the puppet field combat police command, the puppet 1st Division command at Mang Ca, and Tay Loc Airfield, and seized control of the former imperial Forbidden City. Particularly, the organized uprisings of the masses in the city (from the fourth day of the offensive onward) were more visible and extensive than in any other localities. The success of the offensive and uprising in Hue, reflected in the city's

occupation by our forces for 25 days and nights, constituted a great inspiration for our Army and people on other battlefields and a tremendous shock for the U.S.-puppet ringleaders.

In the Nam Bo delta, the prongs of our military attacks, launched in coordination with popular uprisings and propaganda work among families of the puppet Army and administration, caused the collapse of large chunks of the enemy's coercive apparatus and liberated most rural areas adjacent to the cities. For a few days we controlled the five cities of My Tho, Ben Tre, An Giang, Tra Vinh, and Ca Mau and seized a number of important targets in the cities of Kien Phong, Kien Tuong, Vinh Long, Can Tho, Bac Lieu, Kien Giang..., held on to our positions, and mounted counterattacks for several days.

On the Route 9-Khe Sanh front, during the night of 20 January 1968 our troops launched powerful attacks all along Route 9, especially against the important targets of Khe Sanh and Huong Hoa to draw U.S main force troops away from the cities and to lay siege to Khe Sanh. On the night of 2 February, we attacked and overran the Cam Lo Subsector. On the night of 6 February, we destroyed the Lang Vay base in an operation launched in coordination with other military activities in the rest of South Vietnam. Thus the enemy was led to believe that we were about to unleash the biggest attacks on the Route 9-Khe Sanh front, and he massed his forces to confront us there. In coordination with military attacks, tens of thousands of our people in the rural areas tried to advance to the urban areas with the intending to join their compatriots there in the uprising to seize power. However, suppressed and obstructed by enemy bombing and shelling, they were unable to do so. By then, good people in the urban areas had joined the revolution and embarked on many activities to assist and support troops in their fighting (providing rear service, conducting signal and liaison work, and giving shelter and first aid to wounded soldiers). In general, combat activities in various municipalities and cities still failed to achieve their expected objectives while the plans for uprisings in many localities were not fully implemented. In fact, there was no general uprising.

Determined to achieve the greatest victory, cadres and combatants of our Armed Forces and the masses fought gallantly and with a high sense of organization and discipline. They were ready to sacrifice themselves for the sake of victory. Many detachments and teams held on to their positions or counterattacked enemy troops to the last man. Holding the revolutionary banner aloft, many groups of unarmed civilians rushed through hails of bullets toward enemy soldiers to fight them face to face.

The vigorous general offensive and uprising of the Army and people throughout the South suddenly and simultaneously dealt a stunning and frightful blow to enemy strongholds in 64 municipalities, cities, district towns, and military subzones. A part of the enemy's main

strength was destroyed and his means of fighting the war were devastated. A vital element of the Saigon puppet Army was removed and the enemy's repressive machinery was smashed in both urban and rural areas. The enemy was compelled to pull back its forces to defend various cities and bases and his strategic dispositions were turned upside-down.

Thanks to the correct selection of strategic direction—namely, taking the revolutionary war to the urban areas to open up this new battlefield—and by successfully combining military attacks with the mass uprising at a time not expected by the enemy, the effect and strength of the offensive and uprising was multiplied several times. Although there were still shortcomings, such as raising requirements that were not applicable to the actual situation at that time and failing to enforce policies for immediate changes in direction after that, the general offensive and uprising achieved a success of great strategic significance. Despite the failure to achieve the most important objective, the combined general offensive and uprising constituted, in fact, a strategic blow that made the U.S. imperialists' strategy of limited war bankrupt. A historic turning point in the anti-U.S. struggle for national salvation was then opened for our people to execute the famous strategy expounded in Uncle Ho's 1969 Tet greeting letter: "Fight until the U.S. aggressors flee and the puppet administration is toppled."

III. With regard to the significance of the success of the Mau Than Tet general offensive and uprising [Subhead]

On 4 February 1968 (5 days after the Tet offensive), President Ho Chi Minh sent a message to our compatriots in the South. The message read in part: "The early-spring victory of the Army and people of the South has led the anti-U.S. struggle for national salvation of our entire people to a new and highly favorable situation. Nothing can save the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen from sinking into a complete collapse."

The (October 1968) resolution of the party Central Committee Political Bureau pointed out that in only a short period of time, we were able to take the decisive revolutionary war to various cities and, later, could firmly maintain and develop the offensive position and constantly encircle enemy troops in many localities. Meanwhile, by stepping up attacks on enemy positions in the countryside, we were able to smash his "pacification" program, liberate more rural areas with millions of people, destroy more than half of the remaining strategic hamlets, expand and consolidate our rear areas, and ensure more human and materials resources for the resistance.

In the North, our Army and people continued to score more great achievements, frustrate the enemy's war of sabotage, ensure smooth communications despite fierce attacks and sabotage activities by the enemy, and concentrate human and material resources on supporting

the major frontline. We also continued to accelerate the building of socialism under wartime conditions. Relying on the advantage of both military and political offensives on the battlefields and by closely coordinating these offensives, we were able to step up our diplomatic offensive, thus compelling the United States to officially resume talks with us in Paris.

The same resolution stressed: "The greatest and most important success was that we created a sudden change in the war situation, which was reflected in the following areas:

"Regarding its strategic position, the enemy has been upset and driven deeper into defensiveness and passivity...; our strategic position, on the other hand, has become firmer and stronger than ever before: We have pushed the offensive strategy of the revolutionary war forward by a new step, creating an offensive stance and encircling the enemy on all battlefields and especially on the urban front." (Footnote 1) (Some Party Documents on the Anti-U.S. Struggle for National Salvation, Vol 2, Su That Publishing House, Hanoi 1986, pp 92, 93)

True enough, early in the spring of 1968, right at the time when the Johnson administration was escalating the limited war to a peak and after U.S. President Johnson and General Westmoreland, commander in chief of the U.S. forces in Vietnam, had declared that the United States was nearing victory, the general offensive and uprising erupted in the Mau Than spring like a thunderbolt striking the White House and the Pentagon. Faced with a plight similar to that of a "beached whale," the half-million U.S. troops then serving in the South were unable to react in time. The Saigon puppet Army and administration were drowned in a "terrible disaster," disintegrating piece by piece.

The United States was forced to abandon its counteroffensive strategy, fall back to a defensive strategy on the entire battlefield, and limit its bombing raids against the North. From that time, the U.S. war of aggression took a downturn; and the revolutionary war in the South embarked on a new stage.

Thus, at this point, the limited war brought by the United States to a peak had been defeated right at a time when Washington still had over 1 million U.S. and puppet troops at its disposal.

The strategic setback sustained by the United States in the spring of 1968 led to the demise of its limited war strategy as well as its air and naval war of destruction against North Vietnam. It was a milestone marking the defeat and bankruptcy of an important part of the U.S. imperialists' counterrevolutionary global strategy known as "flexible reaction" in the 1960's.

Concerning the strategic significance of this setback, Arthur Schlesinger, ex-National Security affairs adviser to J. Kennedy, made the following assessment: "On 31

March 1968, when President Johnson spoke to the nation on the Vietnam issue, he not only declared that he would stop military escalation, step up efforts in search of negotiations, and withdraw from the presidential race...; but he also talked about the collapse of a policy and even the end of an era (meaning the termination of an era in which the U.S. imperialist nation considered itself a superpower that could rule the roost at will), and also the collapse of the role played by the United States in the world." (Footnote 2) (U.S. magazine HARPER'S, Issue No 3, 1969).

In a recent directive, our party Central Committee Secretariat pointed out: "That was the beginning of a strategic decline which the U.S. imperialists never wanted but were unable to resist. The success and the lessons of the Mau Than Tet made it possible for us to score victories of strategic significance in 1970, 1971, and 1972, forcing the United States to sign the Paris Agreement and withdraw all of its forces home; and led to the total victory of the anti-U.S. war of resistance for national salvation, the liberation of the South, and national reunification."

From an epoch-making event like the Mau Than Tet general offensive and uprising, we can draw many useful and profound lessons in different areas—lessons of both success and shortcomings.

Here, however, I only want to point out a general lesson.

First of all, the question has arisen as to how, within a very short period of time, and with only hastily made preparations, our Armed Forces and people were able to win a victory of such great strategic importance in their test of strength against more than a million U.S.-puppet and vassal troops.

It should be affirmed that all successes of the revolution and the revolutionary war in the South that had been won previously, as well as the victory of the 1968 Tet general offensive and uprising, stemmed from the following fundamental causes:

—Our party's extremely correct lines for the revolution and for the revolutionary war and people's war;

—The extremely valiant spirit of struggle and the extraordinary efforts displayed by the party organization and people in the South as well as by the entire party, Armed Forces, and people throughout the country;

—The strength of the socialist North which served as the direct rear area of the revolutionary war in the South; the factor involving the strength of our times....

For these fundamental reasons, the efficient strategic leadership of our party headed by President Ho Chi Minh and its firm grasp and correct, creative application of the laws of our revolutionary war and people's war can be said to have had a direct and decisive effect on this strategic victory.

A prominent characteristic of this leadership was that it was always based on the principle of using a small force to fight a larger one. This was particularly true in the period when we directly confronted and defeated the U.S. expeditionary corps and its local war strategy. What strategic measures were to be used? Where and when to strike? What kind of victory should we aim for both to be commensurate with our forces and to obtain the greatest possible strategic effect? These questions required special skill in the art of strategic leadership.

The efficiency and skill displayed by our party in its strategic leadership consisted mainly in its ability to firmly grasp and correctly assess the Americans' strategy and strength, accurately evaluate our capacity, boldly seize strategic opportunities, choose the right strategic targets, and apply creative strategic measures.

Another distinctive feature of this general offensive and uprising was the high singlemindedness and extremely courageous and resourceful actions of our people and Armed Forces throughout the country who, with millions acting as one and complete unity from the top to the bottom, resolutely overcame all difficulties and fulfilled at all costs the strategic decision already made. In so doing, they created fabulous strength.

The Mau Than Tet general offensive and uprising was an extremely creative, bold and decisive strategic encounter, and a great decisive strategic battle. It was the fruit of the preservation and further enhancement of traditional military thought and unmatched military art of our forefathers typified by Tran Hung Dao, Nguyen Trai, Nguyen Quang Trung....

The lesson of the Mau Than Tet shows us all the more clearly that it was due to our correct strategic guidelines, our accurate assessment of the actual situation based on a correct viewpoint, our skillful and creative organization, and our bold actions that we were able to win a great victory and gain a more profound understanding of the United States. Following the Mau Than Tet, the United States agreed to de-escalate the war, conceding a fundamental setback. Then in the subsequent years, this chieftain of imperialists was forced to accept total defeat.

This historic victory proved all the more eloquently the boundless strength of the people's will, their revolutionary resolve, and their total dedication to the truism

"Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom." It affirmed conclusively that no brutal force can subdue our people, including the big Army of the United States, which was once known for its "unchallenged" military strength. This was also a stern warning to any reactionary forces still nurturing dark schemes and ambitions against our country.

The creative thinking and bold actions depicted in the Mau Than Tet epic stir up in every one of us boundless national pride and self-confidence, bolster our confidence in our party's leadership, and prompt us to unite around the party Central Committee to strongly push forward the current great cause of renovation. Let our entire party, people, and Army make every effort to promote far-reaching renovation in all fields, bring into full play the aggregate strength of the people, of each establishment, each sector, each locality, and each unit in accordance with the viewpoint "consider the people as the roots" so as to improve the socioeconomic situation, overcome all the present difficulties and trials, take the country forward, and successfully implement the resolution of the sixth party congress and those of the party Central Committee and Political Bureau.

In my opinion, this is the lesson of all the lessons bequeathed to the present and the future, by the Mau Than Tet general offensive and uprising

Briefs

Cooperation With Spain

The Spanish TRANSCOMIN-86 corporation has recently decided to establish a joint venture with Ho Chi Minh City involving the construction of various projects for a 5-year period. These include an oil refinery, a car assembly factory, a big public health center, a steel processing factory, and a solar energy center. Under these projects, Ho Chi Minh City will buy a number of cargo-carrying ships from a Spanish corporation. TRANSCOMIN-86 is a specialized import-export corporation which has signed many important contracts in oil refining with Central American countries. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 7 Feb 88 BK]

FAO Gives Wheat Aid

Hanoi VNA Feb 8—The Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has signed a decision to give emergency aid of 30,000 tonnes of wheat worth 5,880,000 U.S. dollars to the people in the central provinces of Nghia Binh and Phu Khanh and in other areas hit by storms and floods last year. The decision was made at the request of the executive director of the World Food Programme (PAM) [Programme Alimentaire Mondial]. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1500 GMT 8 Feb 88 BK]

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